Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-036
Monday
24 February 1992

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-036 24 February 1992

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Brazil's Collor Opens Presidential Summit *[Brasilia Radio]* 2
Bolivian President Named COPPPAL Spokesman *[La Paz TV]* 3
Interparliamentary Group Against Drugs Formed *[AFP]* 3

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Havana SUVP 'Giron 92 Exercise' Continues *[Havana Radio]* 5
Mock Infiltration Thwarted *[Havana Radio]* 5
Fidel Castro Tours Guira de Melena Farms *[Havana Radio]* 5
Raul Castro Notes Development in Ciego de Avila *[Havana TV]* 5
Inaugurates Camaguey Exhibit *[Havana Radio]* 6
Attends EJT Anniversary *[Havana Radio]* 6
Police Report Increase in Economic Crimes *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 6
European Parliament Delegation Arrives *[Havana Radio]* 6
'Third Option' Opposition Party Formed *[Madrid Radio]* 7
Commentary on Country's Justice, Death Penalty *[Havana Radio]* 7

Haiti

Metropole Interviews Belizaire on Negotiations *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
Negotiation Delegations Leave for Washington *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8
No Mention of Reinstatement in Initial Talks *[Bonaire Radio]* 9
'Historic' Agreement Reached *[Madrid EFE]* 9
Plan Lacks Military Approval *[Bonaire Radio]* 9
Military Orders Curfew in Mirebalais *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 9
Deputy Claims Pursuit by Civilians, Military *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 9

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Cristiani Decrees Mourning Period for D'Aubuisson *[San Salvador TV]* 10
Commentary on D'Aubuisson's 'Criminal Career' *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 10
Clandestine Comments on D'Aubuisson's Death *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 10
Treasury Minister, Deputy Minister Resign *[San Salvador TV]* 11
Daily Energy Rationing To Begin 24 Feb *[San Salvador TV]* 11
Spain, IDB Finance National Reconstruction Plan *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 22 Feb]* 11
Commentary on U.S. Ambassador William Walker *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 12

Guatemala

Government-Guerrilla Talks End With 'Progress' *[AFP]* 12

Nicaragua

Daniel Ortega Urges Followers To Unite *[BARRICADA 22 Feb]* 12

'Internal Confusion' Concerns FSLN Members *[LA PRENSA 19 Feb]* 13
Sandinists Discuss Required Party Changes *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 21 Feb]* 14
Party Members Question Sandinist Leadership *[LA PRENSA 21 Feb]* 14
FSLN Proposes Implementation of National Plan *[BARRICADA 21 Feb]* 15
Authorities Release 39 Miskito Indians *[Managua Radio]* 17
Tension Prevails in North Atlantic Region *[BARRICADA 22 Feb]* 17
Minister Signs UN Economic Cooperation Agreement *[Managua Radio]* 18
France To Increase Aid to Country by 20 Percent *[Paris LE MONDE 15 Feb]* 18

Panama

Endara on Future of Panama Canal Operations *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 21 Feb]* 19
Linares on U.S. Bill To Modify Canal Treaties *[LA PRENSA 22 Feb]* 19
Arias Dismisses U.S. Plan To Control Canal *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 21 Feb]* 20
New Agency Formed To Implement MLAT *[Panama City TV]* 20
Reaction to Possibility of New U.S. Invasion Cited *[Panama City TV, etc.]* 20
World Bank Approves $120 Million in Loans *[LA PRENSA 21 Feb]* 20
M-20 Rebels Blamed for Destroying Power Towers *[AFP]* 21

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Cheney's Remarks on Military Cooperation Reported *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 22
Defense Minister Comments *[TELAM]* 22
Menem Returns From Europe, Canela Summit *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 23
Remarks Cited *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 22 Feb]* 23
Deputy Calls Pension Proposal 'Horrific Fraud' *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 21 Feb]* 24
Counterproposal Made on Debt-Reduction Program *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 21 Feb]* 24
* Manzano's Political Strategy Analyzed *[LA PRENSA 26 Jan]* 24

Brazil

Collor on Environmental Issues, 'Letter of Canela' *[Brasilia Radio]* 26
More on Collor's Comments *[Brasilia Radio]* 26
Bill on 'Sensitive Technology' Sent to Congress *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 19 Feb]* 27
Government Seeks Control of Entire Nuclear Cycle *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 20 Feb]* 27
Gros on Debt Rescheduling With Paris Club *[Brasilia Radio]* 28
* Background, Impact of Ministers' Ousting Viewed *[VEJA 22 Jan]* 28

Chile

Cheney Arrives, Meets With Government Officials *[Santiago Radio]* 32
Russia Offers 'Guarantees' for Honecker *[Santiago Radio]* 33
Honecker Admitted to Hospital *[Santiago Radio]* 33
'No Changes' in Policy *[Santiago Radio]* 33
Chancellor Kohl Cited *[Madrid EFE]* 33
Body of Colonel Linked to Arms Shipment Found *[Santiago Radio]* 34
Roundup of Economic Reports From 5 Jan-19 Feb *[EL MERCURIO 5 Jan, etc.]* 34

Colombia

President on Guerrilla's Cease-Fire Position *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 34
Government Announces Caracas Peace Talks Postponed *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 34
New Date Studied *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 34
Rebels Ambush Convoy, Kill 12 Soldiers, Civilian *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 35
Army Resumes Guerrilla Fighting Activities *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 35
AD/M-19 Communique Supports Health Minister *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 35

Peru

Government Decrees, Extends State of Emergency *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 35
Economy Minister on Drug Agreement With U.S. *[Lima Radio]* 36
Subversive Group Leaders 'Could Be Extradited' *[Madrid EFE]* 37
Shining Path 'Has Declared War' on Dutch Workers *[Hilversum Radio]* 37

Uruguay

Lacalle Advocates International Environment Treaty *[Montevideo Radio]* 38
Ministry Denies Protest to Brazil on Acid Rain *[Montevideo Radio]* 38
Communist Party Central Committee Leaders Resign *[Madrid EFE]* 38
Government Suspends VAT on Farm Products *[Montevideo Radio]* 39

Venezuela

Perez Not To Attend San Antonio Drug Summit *[Caracas TV]* 39
Perez Speaks on 4 Feb Coup Attempt, Corruption *[Caracas TV]* 39
Military Court Orders Arrests *[Caracas TV]* 42
New Attack Denied *[AFP]* 43
Coup Leaders Want To Explain *[Madrid EFE]* 43
Possible Executions, Torture *[Madrid EFE]* 44
Senator Resigns, Claiming No Solution to Crisis *[Caracas TV]* 44

Panama

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA reports that First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon reiterated his support for the "'full Panamanization of the Panama Canal,' and dismissed the plan by a group in the U.S. House of Representatives to extend U.S. control over the waterway beyond the year 2000." LA PRENSA reports that "Foreign Minister Julio Linares warned that if the United States approves a law violating the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties, 'the government will issue a protest.'"

Haiti

The Madrid news agency EFE carries a report that "Haiti's conflicting sides and the OAS reached a 'historic' agreement on 23 February." The report states that the parties to the OAS-sponsored negotiations in Washington have agreed to return Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power if he will accept National Assembly decisions made since the 30 September 1991 coup, including the confirmation of General Raul Cedras as chief of the Haitian Armed Forces. Bonaire Trans World Radio reports that the Haitian military has not yet agreed to the plan.

Venezuela

In a speech in Guatire honoring former President Betancourt, carried live on Caracas television, President Perez denounced the military coup attempt on 4 February. Perez said it was "impossible to think of greater corruption or a greater crime than to overthrow a constitutional system." He called for punishment under the law, but warned against feeling hate or denying constitutional guarantees to the perpetrators. Caracas television reports further that a military court has ordered the arrest of 41 Army officers implicated in the rebellion.

Argentina

NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS reports that Defense Secretary Dick Cheney visited the Senate and Chamber of Deputies. The report says Cheney "promised Congress that his country will increase military cooperation with Argentina." TELAM cites Defense Minister Erman Gonzalez on the visit: "In general terms, the visit has been instrumental in consolidating our fraternal, friendly ties, and in implementing cooperation plans between our two armed forces."

Chile

Santiago Radio reports that the Russian Government granted "all necessary guarantees for Honecker's adequate medical treatment" especially during his trip from the Chilean Embassy to the hospital, during his stay in the hospital, and his safe return to the embassy. The report adds, "no answer has been received on a safe-conduct for the Honeckers to travel to Chile." Another Santiago Radio report says Honecker has been admitted to a hospital in Moscow.

Inter-American Affairs

Brasilia radio reports that the presidents of the Southern Cone countries signed a document "containing proposals to protect the environment." The proposals will be submitted during the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in June. Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Melo, in commenting on the importance of the document, which is referred to as the "Letter of Canela," said that it "will greatly influence the United Nations because it shows that Southern Cone countries, especially Brazil, want to grow with an ecological conscience."

Brazil's Collor Opens Presidential Summit

PY2102113292 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Lupe Martins report from Canela, Brazil; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The presidents of the Southern Cone countries today signed in Canela, Rio Grande do Sul State a document containing proposals to protect the environment. These documents will be submitted during the upcoming Rio-92 conference [the UN Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June].

President Fernando Collor opened the presidential summit in which the future of the ecology of the region was discussed. In his opening speech, Collor noted that environmental problems are the responsibility of the international community, not of individual countries as the industrialized countries contend. Collor believes that attitude has led to a partial and discriminatory treatment of environmental issues.

[Collor] "The countries that have been involved in intensive industrial development for more than a century—at a very high environmental cost—have achieved a standard that allows them to pursue alternative processes.

"Developing countries have a different viewpoint. It is necessary to identify the causes, analyze the mistakes that have been made, and contribute to the formulation of a new model of development, but without [word indistinct] the Rio-92 conference initiative to those initiatives that seek to alleviate waste and inefficient production and to curb luxurious and abusive consumption."

President Collor stressed the importance of international cooperation and stated that the Rio-92 conference will mark the course of environmental rights.

[Collor] "We know there can be no solution without international cooperation. We are working to coordinate at a national and international level the two basic points of the conference: environment and development. The Rio-92 conference will be a privileged occasion to discuss our proposals on international environmental rights.

"The Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development: The Letter of the Earth, will be the cornerstone of this process. The general principles on nation's rights and obligations should help to clearly indicate the course of environmental rights."

President Collor also addressed the problems encountered by developing countries. He asked wealthy countries for special treatment as a way to guarantee the people's well-being.

[Collor] "We must find solutions [words indistinct] of the problems and the possibilities so we can all help to overcome them. We know that developing countries lack the resources to meet the financial cost of sustained development. We are confronting dramatic problems in our quest for solutions to social problems that keep a significant number of people living under the poorest conditions. That is why we insist on the need for preferential treatment to transform our development and bring well-being to our nations."

President Collor ended his speech by saying that Southern Cone countries need new international cooperation that can ensure access to the so-called clean-up technology.

The Canela document, which was signed by the Southern Cone countries' presidents, has two items, one of which proposes the drafting of a law to punish nations that damage the environment. After a two-hour working meeting at the (Lage) Hotel in Canela, the four presidents and the Chilean Government's representative approved and signed a document called the Letter of Canela, which will be submitted to the United Nations and then analyzed at the Rio-92 conference.

The Letter of Canela [words indistinct] basically the firm commitment of all countries to make a coordinated effort to ensure future relations and to manage the conditions that make life possible on our planet.

The Southern Cone countries fully assume these responsibilities and ask the wealthy countries to help Latin America through access to antipollution technology and formulas to avoid depredatory moves. They also ask for assurances that projects will contain environmental impact studies. The document asks for environmental protection and a law to punish countries that commit crimes against the environment.

After the meeting, President Collor spoke about the document:

[Collor] "The Letter of Canela identifies the danger posed by toxic agricultural products and the need to preserve the environment. We reached a good consensus among the Southern Cone countries, and that will greatly influence the United Nations because it shows that Southern Cone countries, especially Brazil, want to grow with an ecological conscience that will allow this growth to transform economic development into an instrument to fight poverty in Brazil's most critical regions. At the same time it can also be an instrument to help Brazil's developed regions become vigorous with quality life prevailing in those areas."

President Collor has concluded his official agenda in Canela and is staying at Las Hortencias Palace. He will return to Brasilia tomorrow at noon. Argentine President Carlos Menem will leave for Buenos Aires tonight, and the Uruguayan and Paraguayan presidents will leave tomorrow morning.

Bolivian President Named COPPPAL Spokesman

PY2302013292 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties [COPPPAL] has named President Jaime Paz Zamora its spokesman for the Cartagena 2 summit. The appointment was made during a ceremony at Government Palace, which was attended by COPPPAL delegates from several countries. [passage omitted]

After reporting on matters discussed during the COPPPAL conference in La Paz, Rafael Rodriguez Barrerra, high-ranking leader of Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party, pointed out that the many important political and institutional issues discussed during the meeting included an issue of vital importance to humankind and handed President Paz Zamora the document called the La Paz Letter. [passage omitted]

After expressing thanks for the special recognition given to him and Bolivia by COPPPAL and its members, President Paz Zamora said he was pleased to represent the most important Latin American political parties at the upcoming summit. He pointed out that the international situation prevailing at the time of the previous summit, which was called Cartagena 1, was very different from the current situation:

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] Four countries attended the Cartagena 1 summit. The situation was different at that time, which was less than two years ago. There was still an international polarization between the two great powers. [passage omitted]

It was hard to dissociate the issue of drug trafficking from the international polarization that existed, although signs that it was about to disappear could be detected. Even our peoples had a different way of thinking—still linked to the polarization existing at that time—when they allowed us to attend the Cartagena 1 summit. [end recording]

The president then promised to comply with the request COPPPAL made of him in the name of 45 of the most important Latin American political parties:

[Begin recording] I promise to present these topics, and I want to thank Rafael Rodriguez and all of you who are here today. I want to thank you for your presence and, particularly, for your confidence in Bolivia and its president, who will be your spokesman and take these points of view—this document and its contents—to the presidents who will meet in San Antonio, Texas. As these points are reported, the U.S. public will learn about the most important Latin American political parties' views on the issue. [end recording]

The topics President Paz Zamora will present to the San Antonio summit in the name of COPPPAL include: An all-out antidrug fight is mankind's alternative for getting rid of this terrible evil. That means fighting its causes and effects. COPPPAL warns the international community about the drastic penalties imposed on social groups that produce raw material for the drug, in contrast with the permissibility and excessive tolerance shown by developed countries' laws regarding drug consumers. COPPPAL endorses the alternative development model as a feasible strategy that proposes not only reducing, eradicating, and replacing the production of raw material for the drug in the medium term, but also replacing the drug economy with legally established economies. [passage omitted]

Interparliamentary Group Against Drugs Formed

PA2002142992 Paris AFP in Spanish 0212 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Quito, 19 Feb (AFP)—Deputies from Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and Peru agreed in Quito on 19 February to create a Latin American Interparliamentary Group for Prevention of Drug Abuse [Grilapad—Grupo Interparlamentario Lationamericano de Prevencion del Abuso de Drogas] and to promote multilateral agreements to fight drug trafficking.

The proposals were presented by Brazil and Peru respectively and will be submitted to the legislatures of the countries participating in the Third Interparliamentary Meeting on Money Laundering for approval and ratification so they can subsequently be transformed into international agreements.

Legislators from those eight countries and representatives from the United States participated for two days in the meeting that was called by Ecuador's National Congress. The meeting ended on 19 February.

The delegation from Brazil presented the proposal to create Grilapad. The group will be composed of four parliamentarians from the aforementioned nations—two regular members and two alternate members—and its focus will be to coordinate joint efforts to fight drug trafficking and drug use.

The document, which has been approved by all the participants, specifies that Grilapad will have a provisional governing body composed of a president, two vice presidents, and a secretary general. They will be in charge of preparing the organization's statutes and internal regulations in the period of one year.

After emphasizing the importance of having joint and unified efforts in Latin America to be more efficient in the fight against drug abuse, the document notes that the resources assigned for that purpose are inadequate in the majority of the countries of the region.

The Peruvian legislators also promoted the signing of multilateral agreements between the Andean countries that produce the coca leaf, the countries that serve as passageways, and the consuming countries, "to confront drug trafficking in an integral manner."

The Peruvians believe that America and the world should unify their legislation to promote a drastic and severe fight against drug trafficking. They also point to the need to create a data bank that will provide reliable and timely information on that illegal activity.

Peru believes that the producing countries and the countries that are used as passageways for drugs to the international markets should structure an economic plan for integral development. This plan would be aimed at promoting and favoring better standards of living conditions for the population directly or indirectly dedicated to growing coca leaves, poppy, and other products.

The agreements, bilateral agreements, and summits have not had positive effects and results in solving the problems of drug trafficking and drug use in America.

The Peruvian legislators note that in the last few years, the increase in the sowing of coca leaves is alarming, and in South America poppy plantations are beginning to appear. Meanwhile, the developed countries of America and Europe are consumers and their economic help to solve the problem is insufficient.

Finally, the parliamentarians decided to participate in the meeting of the legislatures of America and of the international antidrug organization to take place in Lima in July.

Cuba

Havana SUVP 'Giron 92 Exercise' Continues

FL2102013992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Report by Zenaida Gonzalez on the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] The "Giron 92" exercise to improve the Unified Protection and Vigilance System [SUVP] continued today. As part of these exercises, inspections of the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] guard posts, farmers brigades, and workers commissions have been carried out throughout the capital, and meetings have been held with people showing criminal potential. Only three days after the start of "Giron 92," we have had some experiences. I invite you to listen to statements by Glenda Azoy, a member of the provincial party executive bureau.

[Begin Azoy recording] Well, I think the exercise is going well, especially because we are finding some deficiencies. This was one of the basic goals we had set: to see where we had deficiencies and act to solve them. Above all, deficiencies have been detected in violations of the measures for entering places, the protection measures. People trust anyone who arrives, and they do not comply with the established protection regulations. That is one very interesting thing we have seen.

Likewise, some very important goals are being reached, especially in meetings with people who have shown criminal potential and meetings with people who, although they have not shown criminal potential, have demonstrated inappropriate behavior in their neighborhoods. There has been action by the CDR, the federation [not further identified], the prevention commission of the people's government, and the district party cell to influence and improve their attitude. These assemblies with these comrades, several of which have been held in the capital, have had very good results. I think combativeness and vigilance have increased, although we still have a lot to do. [end recording]

Mock Infiltration Thwarted

FL2102181192 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1514 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] A practical demonstration of how border protection is organized in Habana del Este was the most outstanding event today in the "Giron 92" exercise, which has been under way in the capital since 10 February. The quick activation of all elements of the Unified Vigilance and Protection System [SUVP], such as border guard troops, interior order forces, and the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution sentries, thwarted a mock enemy infiltration in Guanabo. Later on, Glenda Azoi, a member of the provincial party executive bureau, during a mass act held in Guanabo, qualified the exercise as well done and urged everyone to fight criminal acts with the same spirit.

On the third day of the "Giron 92" exercise, provincial commissions continued to evaluate the performance of the SUVP in the rest of the capital's municipalities.

Fidel Castro Tours Guira de Melena Farms

FL2202165392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Today, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro visited agrarian areas of the Guira de Melena Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise in Havana Province. Fidel, accompanied by Carlos Lage, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, talked with members of the 2d Brigade of the Smiles of Victory Camp, who were working on the tomato harvest in a field near the facility. Fidel showed interest in the care and yield of the crop, as well as living conditions in the camp. The mobilized workers who were present explained to the leader of the revolution the progress achieved in weeding and expressed their satisfaction with the discipline and other living conditions at the camp.

Fidel also visited the second 9 April parcel of the No. 5 farm of the Guira de Melena Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise, where members of the Youth Labor Army [EJT] are working. The potato harvest began here a few days ago, and the commander in chief talked with the most productive workers and other members of that force.

Oscar Basulto, the Havana delegate of the Ministry of Agriculture; Florentino Lemus, director of the Municipal Miscellaneous Crop Enterprise; and other members of the enterprise and the EJT were present during the visit.

Raul Castro Notes Development in Ciego de Avila

FL2102001992 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, the second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, has witnessed during two days in Ciego de Avila Province the economic and social development present in the province. In the mountainous area located in the northwestern part of the province, one can see the rapid progress of the Florencia hydraulic complex and other development zones. Raul's visit was more a surprise than an event for residents of Magura, Chambas when they saw him among them on their narrow streets.

In the oil drilling and extraction area, he saw the workers' constant efforts to extract from our soil natural resources that will help us not only to resist but to solve the problems imposed on us by the special period and to continue to move forward. Raul's tour of Ciego de Avila concluded with a visit to a military academy that obtained national vanguard status during the 1990-1991 school year. The academy has the youngest group of students in the country.

Inaugurates Camaguey Exhibit

FL2202165492 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], has inaugurated an exhibit in Camaguey entitled: What Are We Doing for the Fatherland, the Revolution, and Socialism? The exhibit has been set up at the railroad depot located in the Garrido neighborhood in Camaguey City. The exhibit includes the first railroad that will work with [word indistinct] in Cuba, towed passenger coaches for urban trains, and thousands of parts manufactured with national resources.

Raul also toured the Tango camp, which belongs to an agrarian contingent formed by 150 members of the Camaguey transportation union who tend 25 caballerias of miscellaneous crops. The FAR minister described as very positive the manufacture and spare parts repair efforts of the transportation sector in the province, as well as the efforts of the men and women of the sector in the region in support of the agrarian food program.

Attends EJT Anniversary

FL2202190592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, is currently presiding over the main ceremony being held here at Centro Cubano No. 2 in the heart of the Escambray range in Cienfuegos Province, to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Youth Labor Army [EJT] in the Turquino Plan.

The EJT soldiers have helped plant new coffee fields, build houses and roads, and bring electricity to remote areas. They have been the ideal medium for planting ideas and raising awareness in our mountain regions. The EJT soldiers have braved the cold, the distances, and shortages to arrive at this fifth anniversary with new areas of productivity to benefit our economy.

The Escambray [EJT] division welcomed Raul with the happiness that characterizes them and fully committed to fulfilling any task assigned to them by the Armed Forces and Fidel.

Police Report Increase in Economic Crimes

PA2302200692 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1045 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Havana, 22 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Police Major Ernesto Herrera said in an interview in Havana with BOHEMIA magazine that economic crimes such as embezzlement and misappropriation of goods in state offices has increased remarkably in Cuba.

The police officer said that in 1991 there was an increase in the number of government officials who were negligent in their duty of protecting state property, as well as an increase in "illegal economic activity."

Herrera believes the increase in Cuba's criminal activity is due to lack of control in institutions, incorrect accounting procedures, or slack administrative supervision of goods in custody.

With Herrera's interview, BOHEMIA attempts to highlight the work of the Cuban security corp that considers crimes affecting goods distributed among the population as "counterrevolutionary."

Since the middle of 1990, Cuba has been experiencing adverse economic conditions caused externally by the collapse of trade with the former Soviet Union and domestically by the imposition of severe restrictive measures.

Captain Rolando Bichot described the "golden feather" case, which in his opinion is a typical example of an economic crime.

All workers (19) of the Havana commercial transportation enterprise, which distributes frozen chicken, are under arrest.

Police investigations have determined that during the first half of 1991, the enterprise had a shortage of 31,117 kg of poultry worth nearly 243,000 pesos (each peso is equivalent to one dollar at the official exchange rate).

Those involved in the "golden feather" case did not have previous criminal records, have a good cultural level, and even seemed like exemplary workers.

In the opinion of Capt. Bichot, embezzlement investigations cannot rely on reports like other crimes, such as a burglaries. Instead, embezzlement requires detection.

Police investigations into this case show that criminals removed 20 to 30 cases of frozen chicken at a time and managed to sell them in less than 45 minutes in Havana's Arroyo Naranjo Municipality.

European Parliament Delegation Arrives

FL2202170092 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1501 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] A delegation of the European Parliament, headed by Deputy (Wilfred Delcantar), has arrived in Cuba by invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. Deputy Michael McGowan, a member of the delegation, said it is a great privilege to visit Cuba during these difficult times and affirmed that there are friends in the European Parliament who wish to strengthen solidarity and respect for Cuba.

During their stay in Cuba, the delegation will hold talks with Cuban authorities, visit scientific research facilities, and tour sites of social and historic interest.

The delegation was greeted at the Jose Marti Airport by Deputy Ramon Pez Ferro, chief of the ANPP international relations department.

'Third Option' Opposition Party Formed

LD2202175392 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] We have some news obtained by our special correspondent in Havana, Cuba recently. The report comes to us from Mexico. A small group of Cuban intellectuals and journalists have formed an opposition party offering a third way to democratize the regime and get the island out of the serious economic crisis it is experiencing. The group, called Third Option [Tercera Opcion], is gaining many supporters, so they say, and is worrying the Cuban authorities. Special correspondent Jose Manuel Martin Meden has more:

[Begin Martin Meden recording] Third Option says it did not obtain a reply from the Justice Ministry when it initiated procedures to register itself at the Department of Associations four months ago. It is preparing what it calls a real socialist program. It rejects the blockade imposed by the United States on the island. It does not agree with the extreme right-wing exiles in Miami. It accuses Fidel Castro's government of acting with authoritarian police arbitrariness. It also proposes a national dialogue in Cuba to achieve political freedom and economic democracy by peaceful means. [end recording]

Commentary on Country's Justice, Death Penalty

PA2202211192 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] The recent executions of Luis Miguel Almeira Perez and Rene Salmeron Mendoza, the criminals directly responsible for a multiple murder committed in January, came as no surprise to Cubans who closely followed each step of their trial. Cuban public opinion in general called for application of the full force of law in the trial of the perpetrators and accomplices of the murder of four guards, who were tied and then shot to death after the criminals failed in their attempt to leave the country illegally.

Cuban society is not used to these types of violent crime. Cubans have a high regard for justice, and that is why they are irritated to read capricious and partial statements made by foreign government leaders, political figures, and news media regarding the recent judicial proceedings held on the island.

Recently, the court sentenced to death the leader of a terrorist commando group who had infiltrated the island and sought to sabotage public places and economic objectives. Then it handed down an equal sentence against the murderers of the four guards at Tarara.

The gross distortion of the facts behind the motives and behavior of those implicated in the terrorist landing and the multiple murder at Tarara Nautical Base have caused disbelief and outrage. ABC COLOR of Paraguay described the terrorists as freedom fighters struggling for their people's independence. The paper failed to mention that these alleged defenders of Cuban independence had predetermined sites at which to commit their acts of genocide.

Anti-Cuban radio stations based in the United States ignore the official version of the events at Tarara to develop a unique version that completely distorts the truth as proven during the trial and later confirmed by the murderers' own confessions.

According to the AFP news agency, a spokesperson for the Spanish Foreign Ministry said the Cuban Government has missed an opportunity to demonstrate its generosity, a direct reference to the decision to uphold the death penalty against the perpetrators of the Tarara murders. The same agency reported the Costa Rican Government had expressed its profound and vehement rejection of the decision to place Almeira Perez and Salmeron Mendoza before a firing squad.

From abroad, sometimes in a [word indistinct] way and at others in words full of disrespect and contempt for our national sovereignty, they insist on ignoring the Cuban people's point of view on how they wish to govern themselves and try those born in this country who relinquish the fatherland with their irrational acts.

Haiti

Metropole Interviews Belizaire on Negotiations

FL2102204392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Interview with National Assembly President Dejean Belizaire by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] The Haitian parliamentary delegation will leave the capital on 21 February. This is what National Assembly President Dejean Belizaire had to say: I will approach this new step in the talks with responsibility, objectivity, and patriotism .

Belizaire thinks an agreement should be reached to get the country out of the crisis. He advocated national unity, saying that it is time to end ostracism of a group of men and turn our attention to the country's development instead. Let us now listen to Dejean Belizaire.

[Belizaire] What is important to us is to find mutual guarantees for all sectors in national life through an agreement protocol that can reassure everyone.

[Reporter] Mr. Belizaire, when you met with members of the Chamber of Deputies yesterday, did you eventually draft an agreement protocol for these negotiations?

[Belizaire] Today, we and the deputies who are members of the delegation have somewhat resumed this work and have tried to update it.

[Reporter] But what are the outlines of the...?

[Belizaire, interrupting] The outlines are simple: It provides guarantees for everyone. Guarantees of existence, coexistence, and cohabitation.

[Reporter] The Army command as well?

[Belizaire] Absolutely, because I think the Army is an important component of national life, of the country's political life. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that conditions acceptable to the Army result from this protocol.

[Reporter] Senator Belizaire, did the provisional executive nevertheless participate in the sessions to work out this agreement protocol?

[Belizaire] At the point where we are, it would be difficult for me to say so. However, we met with President Nerette and his advisers at the beginning of the week. We discussed many things. I can say I take into account.... [pauses] or at least the working committee must take these considerations into account.

[Reporter] Do they agree with the negotiated solution?

[Belizaire] Listen. I think that today all Haitians are aware of the necessity of finding a way out of the national crisis.

Negotiation Delegations Leave for Washington

FL2102210292 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Report on news conference with Rene Theodore by Philippe Bien-Aime at the Port-au-Prince International Airport on 20 February—recorded]

[Text] [Bien-Aime] Two delegations left the country yesterday afternoon to participate in the meeting at OAS headquarters in Washington from 22 to 23 February to find a solution to the Haitian crisis. The first delegation is headed by prospective Prime Minister Rene Theodore and Wilner Dessources. The other delegation consists of Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul, Micha Gaillard, and Dr. Jean Moliere, all of whom will participate in the meeting as consultants to Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Prospective Prime Minister Rene Theodore said he was leaving because the country is sick. He is going to see if the negotiations can stop dragging on so democracy and security can return to the country.

[Theodore] The problem is that our country is dying. We are suffering from an embargo. We must do something. This time we will participate in the negotiations to at least see if they can be concluded so the country can find its way and so democracy can return, for everybody's security, and for the progress of Haiti.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you have an agreement protocol that you will discuss?

[Theodore] I have no agreement protocol. I was not a negotiator at the beginning, so I do not have an agreement protocol. I know the parliamentarians have an agreement protocol that they will propose. There are those who have the authority to propose an agreement protocol.

[Reporter] Are you optimistic?

[Theodore] I am obliged to be optimistic because a country cannot die.

[Bien-Aime] Mr. Theodore stated that upholding General Cedras as head of the Army does not depend on him, but that it is rather a parliamentary act. He added that the army's business does not fall under the jurisdicition of a prime minister. In his opinion, it concerns the president and parliamentarians.

[Theodore] Even if I were prime minister, it would not be my business. The Army's business is the Army's business. It concerns the president, the Constitution, and the National Assembly. It does not concern the prime minister.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] that General Cedras remain at his post?

[Theodore] That is a parliamentary decision. Only the National Assembly is authorized to appoint generals. It is not the prime minister's responsibility. I have nothing to do with that. I hope these negotiations will at least help the country get out of the crisis.

[Bien-Aime] According to Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul, also known as K-Plim, the president priest has already made many concessions and must keep many other concessions because, first and foremost, we have the country to save.

[Paul] We will only fight to find a solution to the crisis.

[Reporter] Are you optimistic?

[Paul] I am very optimistic.

[Reporter] Do you have an agreement protocol that you will discuss?

[Paul] We are going to look for a solution to the crisis. [words indistinct] I am very optimistic. We must finally find a solution to this crisis. It has lasted too long.

[Reporter] In what capacity are you going to Washington?

[Paul] As a consultant to President Aristide.

[Reporter] Do you think Father Aristide will make concessions regarding the General Cedras matter?

[Paul] He has already made many concessions and he must continue to make concessions because first and

foremost there is the country to save. He must think of the country before anything else.

[Bien-Aime] We may announce that today, 21 February, the parliamentary delegation will leave for Washington within the framework of the negotiations being held to find a solution to the four month-old Haitian crisis.

No Mention of Reinstatement in Initial Talks

FL2202153092 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide had initial talks with the current rulers of Haiti yesterday in Washington. His five-hours talks at the headquarters of the Organization of American States with Prime Minister Rene Theodore [as heard] did not include even one mention of Mr. Aristide's possible return to power. Mr. Theodore said only that he was moderately optimistic about finding a solution to the crisis in the country.

'Historic' Agreement Reached

PA2402040992 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0323 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Washington D.C., 23 Feb (EFE)—Haiti's conflicting sides and the OAS reached a "historic" agreement on 23 February that may signal the beginning of a solution to the crisis in that country.

Sources close to the negotiations told EFE the agreement commits the Haitian Assembly tc "restore" toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power and will demand that he accept decisions made by the chambers of the National Assembly since the coup on 30 September 1991.

One of those decisions is the confirmation of coupist General Raul Cedras as chief of the Armed Forces of Haiti.

Aristide was reluctant to accept that point of the protocol for several hours, but in the end, the deposed president relented after a provision was included that would allow him to appeal in cases of "differences" to the National Reconciliation Commission mentioned in the Haitian Constitution.

OAS mediation sources told EFE they were satisfied with the agreement reached between the conflicting sides and stressed that the document will make it possible to move towards a solution of the Haitian crisis.

Negotiation Chairman Augusto Ramirez Ocampo will officially announce the signing of the protocol on 23 February.

Plan Lacks Military Approval

FL2402151092 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] The Organization of American States claims to have arrived at a plan to return President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and democracy to Haiti.

The only problem is the military who staged the 30 September coup has not said they will go along with it as yet. The OAS says all the major Haitian participants in talks in Washington have accepted the plan under which interim Prime Minister Rene Theodore, who is a socialist, would rule Haiti for several months. Then Mr. Aristide would return Additionally, soldiers who staged the coup would not be prosecuted and coup leader, General Raoul Cedras, would be allowed to remain in charge of the Army.

Military Orders Curfew in Mirebalais

FL2102204192 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Report by Mirebalais correspondent Leo Guillaume]

[Text] The military authorities have ordered a four-day curfew in the city. The curfew begins at 2300 GMT and ends at 1100 GMT, curtailing the activities of bars and restaurants and paralyzing the business of shopkeepers who remain open at night. The students who are preparing for final secondary studies exams may have problems studying at night. At 0100 GMT everyone, including students—is obliged to go home.

Nobody knows the reason for the curfew or how long it will last.

Deputy Claims Pursuit by Civilians, Military

FL2102204492 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1630 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] A National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] parliamentarian asserts he is sought by armed civilians and military personnel. In a letter to the commander in chief of the Haitian Army, General Raoul Cedras, FNCD Deputy Joseph Fignole Jean-Louis states that he is being pursued by groups of armed civilians and military personnel.

After having related the precise facts of what occurred on 13 and 18 February, the president of the FNCD parliamentary bloc asked Gen. Cedras why military personnel in uniform and in civilian clothes are seeking him and whose orders they are obeying. Deputy Jean-Louis, who feels that his life and that of his family is threatened, stated that the situation is extremely grave and alarming.

El Salvador

Cristiani Decrees Mourning Period for D'Aubuisson

PA2102144692 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Despite the lack of support by opposition parties to declare a three-day national mourning period as proposed by the ARENA [National Republican Alliance] party to mark the death of Major Roberto d'Aubuisson, the executive branch announced on 20 February a national mourning period. Questioned by the press at ARENA party headquarters, President Cristiani confirmed the decision. Here is President Cristiani:

[Begin Cristiani recording] The executive branch will issue a decree declaring a three-day national mourning period beginning 21 February. I know that in these moments of sorrow, all of us who worked side by side with Maj. d'Aubuissson during the long struggle for democracy and liberty in El Salvador deeply regret his death. I have no doubts whatsoever that for our fellow party members here with us and for those party members throughout the nation, from now on there will be a slogan: D'Aubuisson Will Live Forever. [applause] [end recording]

Cristiani participated with ARENA party Chairman Armando Calderon Sol in a news conference during which the party's official position was announced.

The wake for the controversial political leader is being held at La Auxiliadora Funeral Home.

Commentary on D'Aubuisson's 'Criminal Career'

PA2102193292 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] D'Aubuisson departs this life without glory or grief. He was a person with a well-known, long-standing criminal career. D'Aubuisson not only created the death squads, but he also advocated that they never be eliminated. Indeed, D'Aubuisson will long be remembered as the person responsible for the death of Monsignor Oscar Romero and for the death of thousands of Salvadorans. Undoubtedly, D'Aubuisson was also involved in the death of the six Jesuit priests who were murdered by members of the Atlacalt Batialion on 16 November 1989. We all remember the poisoning way in which D'Aubuisson appeared throughout the media, threatening all of the people's organizations and all of the religious sectors who spoke in favor of dialogue and negotiations, which in the end paved the way for a solution to the Salvadoran conflict. D'Aubuisson left this world—to who knows where—regretting his inability to continue a war in which thousands more Salvadorans would have died. D'Aubuisson has died with nothing to show; neither glory nor grief.

Clandestine Comments on D'Aubuisson's Death

PA2302201092 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Roberto D'Aubuisson has died, and a whole history of political threats that led El Salvador to a deep split that developed into a war ended with him.

It would be hypocritical to express condolences when in fact, without any hatred or resentment whatsoever, most Salvadorans are filled with joy with the divine punishment against the man who tormented our hearts with the murder of Monsignor Romero and more than 75,000 Salvadorans.

All Salvadorans have experienced difficult times resulting from the long nights worrying about the death squads, who were propelled by Roberto D'Aubuisson's thirst for blood.

He was the typical inheritor of criminals, such as General Martinez and Chele Medrano, who prolonged the nightmare of militarism for more than 60 years. Now we witness the fall of militarism with one of its foremost representatives.

D'Aubuisson never understood anything about ideals or democracy. According to him, anyone who did not support the Nationalist Republican Alliance was a communist. That is the reason why he always addressed his political adversaries by pointing his gun at their heads.

We saw his political threats and arrogance as mocking everyone, including the dying former President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

He was head of the National Assembly and lead it not as an institution for democratic debate but as a general headquarters for the death squads.

What more could be expected from D'Aubuisson as a politician if one recalls that he emerged from the ranks of a bloodthirsty group as the National Guard. This body, just like D'Aubuisson, will disappear shortly.

February 1992 is full of surprises. With the new peace agreements, a new phase of national life is about to begin. February also marks the departure of one of the vestiges of a dark period.

D'Aubuisson departed for the beyond practically unnoticed. Relating to history, his rightful place will be beside other criminals of this century such as Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Idi Amin, Martinez, and other criminals who did a lot of harm to humanity.

That is why we repeat: It would be hypocritical in light of the new phase El Salvador is experiencing to invent condolences for someone who always invoked repudiation.

Treasury Minister, Deputy Minister Resign

PA2102185292 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Treasury Minister Rafael Alvarado Cano and the deputy minister [not further identified] suddenly announced their resignations on 21 February. Alvarado Cano is the second minister in Alfredo Cristiani's cabinet who has presented his resignation. The labor minister also had resigned. The ministers said the only reason for their resignation is so they can return to private practice after having completed the first stage of the tax modernization project. Here is Alvarado Cano's statement.

[Begin Alvarado recording] I want to emphasize that the decisions made by the treasury minister and the deputy minister do not reflect changes in the fiscal policy or its application in this ministry. These resignations guarantee the continuity of the policies. Nothing is done here for personal or arbitrary reasons. Rather, this is part of an overall economic program. That is why in the Treasury Ministry it is more difficult to drift from a macroeconomic program. [end recording]

At the same time the resignations were announced, the treasury minister and the deputy minister submitted for public debate the project that wraps up their technical participation; that is, the new tax law that will replace the stamp tax currently in force.

[Begin Alvarado recording] The new tax law substitutes the stamp tax as an evolution of the stamp and therefore, given that the tax on sale and service is very important as it affects the whole community, we want it to be submitted to a broad discussion. We are allowing 45 days as of 22 February for all the sectors, individually or jointly, to present their observations. [end recording]

The new tax law proposes a 15-percent tax rate instead of the current five percent. In the new project, however, the payment will be made in an escalated fashion and therefore at the end it could turn out to be less. Besides the treasury minister and deputy minister said it is not a matter of imposing the above mentioned project, rather, it must be submitted to prior public debate.

Daily Energy Rationing To Begin 24 Feb

PA2102195592 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] The Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Committee [CEL] announced that a two-hour energy rationing program will be implemented between 0930 and 1130 daily as of 24 February.

According to CEL business managers and technicians, this is an unavoidable measure due to the lack of water in the nation's hydroelectric dams and to Guatemala's failure to fulfill its commitment to sell El Salvador energy.

Guatemala was supposed to sell energy to El Salvador as of 1 February. Nevertheless, between 1 and 12 February, it did not deliver any energy whatsoever; since then, it has not delivered the total amount of energy programmed.

The crisis committee met at the Salvadoran Association of Industrialists, ASI, on 20 February to analyze the impact of the two-hour rationing program to be implemented on 24 February. Nevertheless, the main concern was to ask for the support of the industrialists during this energy crisis and to prevent price increases.

[Begin ASI member Roberto Portillo recording] The private sector has been asked to have those factories with their own power plants produce their own energy during certain times of the day, particularly during the hours of peak demand. We hope these measures will avoid an exacerbation of the crisis. [end recording]

Moreover, assurances were offered during a news conference by the crisis committee that the power supply to hospitals, clinics, and other services will not be interrupted during the previously announced two-hour rationing program. The crisis committee includes textile companies, CEL technicians, the Ministry of Economy, small businessmen, the Chamber of Commerce, and ASI members.

Spain, IDB Finance National Reconstruction Plan

PA2302200392 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 22 Feb 92 p 45

[Text] The "Fifth Centennial Agreement" between the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] and the Spanish Kingdom has made a total of $500 million available to El Salvador to finance projects in different sectors.

This information was disclosed by Ricardo Peidro Conde, Spanish ambassador in El Salvador, and IDB representative Stephen McGaeughey during a press conference on 21 February at the Spanish Embassy.

They also pointed out that the funds included in the agreement are to be used in Latin America but will favor El Salvador and will be used in projects included in the National Reconstruction Plan (PRN). This plan is in dire need of financing.

The "Fifth Centennial Agreement" IDB-Spain is part of the activities initiated by Spain on the occasion of the fifth centenary of the discovery of America.

According to Ambassador Peidro, the mere fact that El Salvador is embarking upon its reconstruction plan at the same time the discovery is being commemorated is a fortuitous coincidence. It will allow El Salvador to obtain funds when it urgently needs it.

The agreement establishes a program to develop Latin American social and economic progress. According to a Spanish Embassy spokesman: "Through this program,

Spain's objective is to combine the commemoration of a past event with a plan for a better future for Latin American countries, and especially for El Salvador, which is about to start its National Reconstruction Plan.

According to IDB representative McGaeughey, the Salvadoran Government is aware of the details of the agreement, and the initial steps related to the reconstruction plan have already taken place.

Mr. McGaeughey indicated that the agreement grants loans under very easy financial terms and the conditions to be met are the same as those required by the IDB in most countries. He added that the agreement does not affect the rest of the IDB programs.

In conclusion, Mr. McGaeughey said the Fifth Centenary funds will be invested in projects dealing with education, research, development, agriculture, fishery, agroindustry, public health, construction, hospital equipment, communications and telecommunications, urban development, cultural restoration, and any other sector both sides agree to include.

Commentary on U.S. Ambassador William Walker

PA2302215692 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text) U.S. Ambassador William Walker has concluded his stay in El Salvador and will return to the United States on 23 February. Mr. Walker was one of the most controversial ambassadors appointed to El Salvador by the United States Government.

The controversies created by Mr. Walker can be viewed from several angles. As an example, we can mention that when Ambassador Walker arrived in our country, the low-intensity war strategy had already been defeated. Another example is that the ambassador represented the most conservative sectors of U.S. diplomacy.

As opposed to other ambassadors, we always saw him in close company with the most uncompromising sectors in the Armed Forces. Of all the officers, Mr. Walker had problems with only one: Colonel Jesus Caceres, with whom he had some very heated arguments on the highway leading to Sunsunate. This led to Col. Caceres losing his command. He was ultimately forced to leave for Chile due to pressure from Walker.

During the first months we noticed the ambassador was somewhat distant from national public life. That was due to an injury to his left leg that occurred during a routine parachute jump one week after his arrival in the country.

His conservatism and favoritism for the most stubborn groups in El Salvador was widely criticized by politicians from all sides. On several occasions his policies clearly differed from those of the State Department.

One of the most difficult periods of Mr. Walker's stay in El Salvador was during the Jesuit crimes, in which he was also incriminated. A lot of negative publicity resulted. Despite this, Mr. Walker never clarified why he so strongly defended the military. He instead resorted to inventing false statements to cover something everyone already knew. Ambassador Walker has still not clarified why the U.S. Government continues to hide evidence related to the Jesuit case.

The Jesuit murder case has not yet been solved and will continue to be a stain on Walker's career until the truth is finally discovered.

Guatemala

Government-Guerrilla Talks End With 'Progress'

PA2302231192 Paris AFP in Spanish 2140 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Feb (AFP)—The meeting in Mexico between the Guatemalan guerrillas and government ended with "important progress" in the area of human rights although no comprehensive agreements were reached, Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, mediator in the negotiations said on 23 February.

Interviewed before leaving Mexico City Quezada said the progress achieved "was such that it will give way to a proposal to reach a comprehensive agreement on human rights."

He said the proposal will be drafted with Francesc Vendrell, the UN representative to the negotiations, and added that perhaps this proposal will overcome disagreements on human rights issues, which he did not specify.

Quezada said there were three points of disagreement during the talks that began on 19 February, but the parties, he added, have discussed them and are determined to reach an understanding.

Nicaragua

Daniel Ortega Urges Followers To Unite

PA2302194592 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Feb 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Elisa Maturana]

[Text] Belen, Rivas—Former President Daniel Ortega has called on all Sandinist followers to unite "without sectarianism or demagoguery" to "save Nicaragua." Ortega spoke at this southern village on the 58th anniversary of General Augusto C. Sandino's assassination.

"We need to channel the debate with a constructive and unified spirit," Ortega said when referring to the dispute that surfaced during the past few months among various Sandinist factions.

"They are using destructive discussion methods. It is good and healthy to hold discussions, but on this 21 February, we should encourage unity and then we will be consistent with Sandino."

Ortega also believes that Nicaragua's social and economic problems are the "events" that will allow one to know who the "true Sandinists" are, because he said: We must change words into actions of commitment with the people.

"When we were in the government not everyone was a Sandinist. Now, whoever is on the side of the landless peasant, children without schools, or the poor, is a Sandinist. Now is when Sandinism is put to test," Ortega added.

Asked if he disallowed the so-called "center group," the Sandinist leader replied that he had disqualified "nonconstructive criticism."

Ortega said that the "center group," by establishing contacts with the government, has taken upon duties that do not belong to them and are not authorized by the party.

'Internal Confusion' Concerns FSLN Members

PA2102192092 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Feb 92 pp 1, 16

[Report by Felix Navarrete]

[Tex] The prevailing political climate in the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] is one of fear, confusion, and concern about an imminent party split. The internal confusion increased with Daniel Ortega's statement accusing members of one group, who are regarded by some people as centrists and who call themselves "renovators," of being "opportunists." Things came to a head when Ortega censured the right to public dissent, as demanded by some militants of that party.

An official FSLN source told LA PRENSA another factor contributing to the internal turmoil in the party is that 90 percent of the members are inactive, which encourages further divisions within the ideological currents that have begun to weaken the traditional steadfast position of that opposition party.

On 18 February in the National Assembly, it was obvious that some Sandinist deputies were afraid to express publicly their views with regard to Daniel Ortega's remarks. Some deputies who support the position of the "centrist" group preferred not to comment and avoided the media.

Clear proof of this fear was the hostile attitude Sandinist Deputy Raul Venerio assumed toward the media. He denied belonging to the centrist group, although his name appeared with 18 others in a document that has shaken the structures of Sandinism.

Venerio was arrogant toward journalists and refused to comment on Ortega's statement. "I do not belong to any centrist group; I am an FSLN militant," he said. This was interpreted as a "mea culpa" on his part for having signed the document issued by the centrist group.

The behavior of Sandinist deputies shows the party cadres are still afraid of Ortega. According to Sandinist Deputy Domingo Sanchez Salgado, "Chaguitillo," "there is fear about talking," because no militants, not even the commanders of the National Directorate, "has experience as a member of a political party."

"Chaguitillo," who was among those who signed the document, had the courage to disagree with the FSLN secretary general's statement, saying: "It was not right for Daniel Ortega to use strong epithets against the group signing the document."

Asked why some militants are afraid to dissent, "Chaguitillo" said the FSLN became a party out of necessity. In regard to the current members of the directorate, he said their ideology is not one of a political party, but of a military front.

Only Sergio Ramirez Mercado, head of the Sandinist congressional bloc, defended Daniel Ortega. Ramirez denied there is a crisis within the party, stressing "there would be a crisis if there were no different opinions."

The fear to dissent publicly was confirmed by Dionisio Marenco, former FSLN propaganda director, who deplored the fact that "LA PRENSA is promoting an internal debate within the party."

Marenco, who supports Ortega's line, said the debate is healthy, but questioned whether some militants should have made public the polemic within the party, which he said "is detrimental."

Marenco's statements imply there might be some sort of censorship of Sandinist media if the debate is publicized, and there might be resentment of the freedom with which LA PRENSA publicly exposes the Sandinist contradictions.

The Sandinist Youth issued a public document blaming the Sandinist leadership for "discouraging its militants" and appealing for respect for the positions of the minority, clearly alluding to the support of new currents evidenced in the party.

Sandinist Youth leader Henry Petrie questioned the Sandinist leadership, which he said "has not been capable of channeling the criticism and diverse currents of opinion within the party."

Despite Ortega's threats and fear of dissension, a group of 150 FSLN supporters said they will meet at the CIPRES [not further identified] installation on the afternoon of 19 February to hold a forum to broach the current problems faced by the Sandinists and the lack of motivation of the party members.

This is the first time a public meeting will be convened without the approval of the FSLN Directorate. The source, who chose to remain anonymous, said the 19 February forum seeks to challenge the FSLN Directorate publicly.

It was learned unofficially that the Sandinist assembly and the FSLN Directorate members will meet in the coming days to discuss and draft a document of recommendations to militants on the latest developments experienced by the Sandinists.

Sandinists Discuss Required Party Changes

PA2202232292 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 21 Feb 92 p 7a

[Text] More than 350 Sandinists attended a forum called "What kind of Sandinst Front Do We Want." Many of them demanded a reorganization of party leadership, an end to the apathy found in the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] organization, and a new government program to counter the one being implemented by the current government.

During the forum's first day, the participants, especially the ones coming from the third district, debated two basic questions: Why do we lack motivation? and, How can we motivate ourselves? These questions led the participants to make proposals beyond the topic itself.

Most of the participants said they did not lack motivation. They said the Sandinists were discouraged because they lacked a sound political program and because party leaders did not have any real ties with the people's struggles.

Leaders Must Not Bind People's Struggles

The Sandinists who attended the forum also criticized leaders who initially supported the people's struggles but later joined government officials against the people. Many observers believe the ongoing forum represents the initiation of the Sandinists' reactivation process.

At the forum, the Sandinists paid a great deal of attention to the need for leadership changes and called for the renewal of solidarity among Sandinists. They did not pay much attention to the ongoing electoral process.

Reconsideration of Programs, Tactics, and Strategy

In the framework of the lessons drawn from the loss of the elections, the need to reconsider the FSLN's strategy to have rank and file participation to recover power, knowing exactly where the FSLN is headed and what program it will follow, was discussed.

An FSLN purge was also proposed, particularly of those members who abused their posts or their access to property for their own personal profit. These members were accused of using a double standard. In addition, the forum called for the leaders to take definite stands and formally assume their role as party leaders.

The Opinion of Aldo Diaz Lacayo, One of the Participants

Diaz, a member of the forum's organizing committee, said: "The FSLN rank and file sense an inconsistency, not only in the FSLN leadership, but in daily, specific actions. The FSLN rank and file seek to recover its consistency." He also said there is no match between the FSLN's strength in terms of numbers and the nature of the attainments obtained as an opposition party.

According to Diaz Lacayo, the Sandinist rank and file will continue to be concerned with their party and other parties as long as this quantity-quality relationship remains undefined. He referred to remarks by FSLN Secretary General Daniel Ortega, who said those who do not like the FSLN could choose among the other 21 parties existing in Nicaragua.

The public debate currently being held by the FSLN is the result of the interest awakened by the internal electoral process for departmental authorities. In this process, according to Diaz Lacayo, the rank and file "sense an uncertain leadership, a lack of definition, and, in the worst case, conflicting stands."

Asked whether or not this open and public discussion was being taken advantage of by some, Diaz Lacayo said this risk is always present "particularly in the presence of trends of opinion." He said the debate should be oriented to leave sufficient room for people to express themselves freely.

This is precisely the purpose of the forum being held, to establish neutral grounds, with an appropriate method, and a good leadership. Diaz Lacayo said "the forum is not confronted by any political thesis and does not favor any one current of thought."

The forum's main purpose is for the rank and file to redefine itself in relation to the FSLN and the country's political situation "to make the electoral process a truly productive one." "To think the forum is questioning something denotes either a lack of information or an interested viewpoint," Diaz Lacayo said.

Party Members Question Sandinist Leadership

PA2202204492 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Feb 92 pp 1,16

[Report by Felix Navarrete]

[Text] On 20 February, more than 130 militants from the Sandinist Front summoned their supreme leadership asking them to eliminate the slogan "National Directorate, command" and replace it with the slogan "National Directorate, listen." This was interpreted as a rebellion without precedent in the history of the party.

Not even in the first congress in July 1991, would the militants have contemplated the possibility of eliminating the unbending position of the slogan due to fear of the Sandinist leadership.

The request confirms the unbending position that exists within the Sandinist Front and the need for discussion and debate to be accepted by the party without any obstacles from the leadership.

An exhortation to renew the party and to hold discussions about the party was another of the worries voiced by some of the militants who, when stating their opinions publicly, experienced some fear regarding what their companions would say.

Many of the militants present on 20 February did not hide a certain preoccupation that they were discussing the future of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] only 48 hours after the violent statements made by FSLN Secretary General Daniel Ortega.

The violence of 20 February demonstrates the political dissatisfaction felt by a large number of Sandinists since the party's first congress in July, where political debate and the free expression of ideas were ignored following pressure by the National Directorate.

Silvio Prado, Danilo Aguirre, Henry Petrie, and well known mid-level FSLN officers questioned the "passive" role that the Sandinist leadership is taking during this uncertain period for the party. They blamed the top leaders for the confusion that Sandinism is experiencing.

During the 20 February meeting, several groups were formed to consider questions such as: What do I seek as a member of the FSLN? What parties should participate and what objectives should be set for a discussion that could contribute to consolidating a partisan debate?

The complaints about the leadership's lack of attention to the problems facing the party were expressed by all those militants who took the floor, overcoming fear and publicly defying their traditional leaders.

It was learned unofficially that Danilo Aguirre Solis, a Sandinist deputy and a candidate for Managua secretariat, is the leader of this group of militants, who are criticizing several Sandinist leader's support for the government.

Heated debates are expected on 21 February about the need for renewal of the FSLN's goals as a party. Every militant will arrive with a personal proposal on how the FSLN should approach this new crossroads.

FSLN Proposes Implementation of National Plan

PA2302144092 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Feb 92 p 6

[Advertisement by the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN: "From the Sandinists, Proposal for a National Plan"]

[Text] **Introduction**

For the first time in its history, Nicaragua has the possibility of organizing a modern, plural society, where inevitable conflicts and natural contradictions are solved through peaceful and legal means. A society where for the first time the norm is not to destroy the adversary, but one where the perception of socioeconomic fairness, as well as unrestricted respect for individual liberty, will be the framework of coexistence between all Nicaraguans.

This encouraging possibility came about as a result of the profound process of social revolutionary transformations of the past decade, from the lessons of the political-military conflict, and from the capacity of all the conflicting sectors to find a political solution to the conflict. Therefore, undertaking an exemplary democratic transition from war to peace, we should all feel proud—winners, as well as losers, of the 1990 elections. For the first time in two centuries of independent life, the people have no wish to overthrow those in power. The important issue is that we have entered a phase of democratic consolidation of a process that started with the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship.

We are all responsible for preserving this unique opportunity. It came about at the same time profound changes were taking place on the international scene. Nicaragua has also undergone changes. Some historical and ideological sources of the past bitter conflict have vanished, allowing for a better understanding. This understanding does not mean an end to our differences, but to violence as a solution.

We Sandinists would like to share some thoughts with all Nicaraguans, which are reasons for optimism, but also to express concern about the possibility that such a promising opportunity could be frustrated due to the serious political division that prevails; the lack of authority; the recurrent yet routine extremism; and the repeated use of force in all forms.

We believe it is necessary to establish a time for reflection, and more so of action, to set aside extreme differences. We say this precisely at this moment when the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] is experiencing the worst crisis since 1975. It is a crisis that should serve to open opportunities so the party can advance under the country's present circumstances.

We hereby call for the conception and implementation of a NATIONAL PLAN that respects the interests of all sectors, that places the interests of the nation above partisan interests, and that realizes that the nation's interests must always stem from a negotiated solution and not from a dispute or confrontation.

We hereby propose peace, reconciliation, freedom, democracy, progress, social justice, and the defense of our national interest as a plan belonging to the leaders and the people themselves.

NATIONAL PLAN

Considering the preceding concerns, we hereby formulate as substantial elements of a NATIONAL PLAN, the following:

I. Nicaraguan National Identity

1. Respect for national sovereignty and independence, restoring values of our national identity, as represented culturally by the work of Ruben Dario and politically by Augusto C. Sandino.

A foreign policy must be established without delay, based on the respect for the principles set forth in the UN Charters and OAS.

II. The Rule of Law and the Existence of Institutions

There is an urgent need to develop the country's legal and political institutions through the strengthening of the rule of law.

1. The strong and effective use of authority to enforce the rule of law, avoiding greater social deterioration and the signs of anarchy and chaos prevailing in the country: Developments such as the increase in crime, robberies on highways and roads, terrorist attacks on political personalities, attempts to create a paramilitary corp, proposals to organize new popular militias, the attempt to outlaw Sandinism, and the attack on the Carlos Fonseca Amador Mausoleum and the ensuing violent reaction where public and private property was destroyed are clear signs of social deterioration and anarchy that deserve to be condemned by all Nicaraguans.

It becomes indispensable to exclude violence completely as a method of solving conflicts and favor the search for peaceful solutions to problems through dialogue and conciliation.

2. Absolute and unrestricted respect for human rights, the guarantees and freedoms outlined in the Nicaraguan Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: The rights of citizens must not be held subordinate to the interests of the state.

3. Respect for the decision of the people, expressed in free elections at periodic intervals, that may lead to the alternation of power: The establishment in our country of repressive governments of any kind must be avoided.

4. The establishment of political and institutional agreements and methods to promote a real democracy that is participative through trade and mass groups and represented through political parties and other institutional means is desired.

5. The strengthening of the independence of powers: Independence of powers does not entail confrontation and subordination; it means coordination for the sake of the National Plan.

The actions by the National Assembly FSLN and National Opposition Union [UNO] deputies, who have performed their jobs with maturity and patriotic responsibility, deserve recognition.

It is necessary to strengthen the Supreme Court, as well as the courts of justice, in terms of financial and human resources, by promoting respect for their rulings.

The existing composition of the Supreme Court must be respected to guarantee its political independence and impartiality.

The Executive Branch must perform its functions by strictly respecting the Constitution.

The electoral system must be reinforced in terms of its institutions as well as it mechanisms.

6. Respect for the institutional and apolitical nature of the Armed Forces, within the framework of the Constitution, becomes fundamental to guarantee the peace and stability of the country. It is unacceptable to have unconventional armed groups, such as the so-called recontras and recompas, on whom we call to surrender their weapons immediately.

7. Nicaraguans are deeply concerned about honesty and seriousness in running the government. All the state branches are obligated to run the government in an honest manner.

The Attorney General's Office must investigate the various charges of corruption reported in the media and punish those responsible in accordance with the law. III. Equity and Social Justice in the Economic Model

1. It becomes necessary to support the Economic and Social Agreements, Phases 1 and 2, signed on 26 October 1990 and on 13, 14, and 15 August 1991, respectively. The basis of these agreements is the recognition on the part of the government of the economic and social transformations carried out by the revolution, the legitimate demands of workers, the level of the organizational development of the country's labor and professional forces, the important role of businessmen, and the need to find a solution to confiscations and expropriations carried out unjustly by the previous government.

2. Committed support for the real democratization of the national economy, because the economic inequalities that took place in the past are no longer acceptable.

3. Democracy is not possible without economic democracy and social justice. The positive aspects of the government's adjustment plan are significant, but the government has the duty to promote new measures to alleviate the negative impact the adjustments have had on the poor, who have borne the brunt of this policy.

The implementation of economic policies with a high content of social justice that foster the creation of new sources of employment, guarantee job stability, and provide adequate salaries is necessary.

Nicaragua is basically an agricultural country. The democratization of the economy is closely linked to democratization of rural properties, which is why redefining land reform becomes necessary to favor landless peasants and small- and medium-scale farmers.

4. The need to reassess the role of the market and decrease excessive state intervention must be made compatible with the functioning of a state that guarantees indispensable social equity to increase the efficiency of the economic system. Also, the National Plan requires a concerted effort between the labor force and capital.

IV. Property and Stability

1. The solution to the ownership problem continues to be fundamental to attain stability. Consequently, Decrees 35 and 36, which govern the conflicts on urban or rural property, should be enforced immediately. In particular, unfair confiscations, abuses in the implementation of Laws 85 and 86, and the full operation of the Office for Territorial Organization should be investigated. If necessary, the government, the FSLN, and the UNO parties should strive to solve the ownership problem, meeting the demands of those affected by these laws as best as possible.

2. The execution of a honest privatization process with the participation of workers, as established in the Concerted Effort Agreements, considering the nation's interest should be established.

3. Respect for the various forms of property: It is necessary to stop completely the occupation of enterprises, cooperatives, lands, and homes as a way to solve ownership disagreements.

4. The proposal to hold a tripartite dialogue between the government, FSLN, and UNO parties is a positive step toward a great national agreement leading to a concerted effort, national reconciliation, stability, social justice, and peace. It is extremely important that any agreements reached by the participants are complied and that situations of political inconsistency or nonfulfillment, which have caused the country so much harm, will not be repeated. The political, economic, social, and trade union organizations should support any agreements reached in the course of the tripartite dialogue.

5. General support for the national reconciliation to attain social peace, which has been impeded by certain sectors of the government, the UNO, and the FSLN: The efforts for national reconciliation, conducted by civilian and military authorities of the government, the Catholic Church and other religious denominations, and the most responsible sectors of the FSLN and UNO, are praiseworthy. Examples of these efforts are the recent creation of the Special Disarmament Brigade, formed by recontras and recompas, and the meeting of the war disabled. The involved parties, and, particularly, the authorities, should obey and enforce the law.

These are the points we regard as essential to advance in the formation of a movement that can sponsor the creation and implementation of a true National Plan in Nicaragua, without any exceptions.

We hereby pledge our efforts to make reality a National Plan propelled through forums, debates, and dialogue mechanisms. In other words, through the efforts of all Nicaraguans to advance in the formation of a broad national thought that can empower us to rescue Nicaragua from its serious situation and give our children the homeland they deserve, the Nicaragua we all have dreamed of.

From the Sandinists, proposals for a National Plan. [Signed] Fernando Guzman, Oscar Tellez, Julio Lopez, Raul Venerio, Bernardo Chamorro, Antenor Ferrey, Mercedes Borgen, Julio Valle Castillo, Carlos Aleman Ocampo, Francisco de Asis Fernandez, Rafael Solis, Alejandro Arguello, Domingo Sanchez Salgado, Orlando Castillo, Francisco Lemus, Gilberto Guzman, Vidaluz Meneses, Gloria Gabuardi.

Authorities Release 39 Miskito Indians

PA2102231692 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Thirty-nine of the 43 Miskito Indians who were detained in Managua in connection with incidents that occurred earlier this week in the Autonomous North Atlantic Region were released on 20 February. Only four remained under arrest, accused of promoting the incidents in which five soldiers were killed.

The released Miskito Indians are staying at Las Mercedes Hotel. The Government Ministry will supply a plane to take them to Puerto Cabezas, where the situation is gradually returning to normal.

Tension Prevails in North Atlantic Region

PA2302211992 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Feb 92 pp 1, 8

[By Gretta Paiz]

[Excerpts] Puerto Cabezas—Waspan has been militarily occupied. The Sinsing Bridge is controlled by armed groups, and one of the bodyguards of the mayor of Puerto Cabezas has been murdered. Transportation workers have been attacked and Sandinists have received death threats.

Tension and fear grip the North Atlantic Autonomous Region. The various Miskito groups, including those with weapons, are very upset.

Early 21 February, Arnulfo Hernandez, alias Sugar, was murdered. Hernandez was a former Yatama fighter. At the time of his death he was a bodyguard of Puerto Cabezas Mayor Roy Dixon. Dixon has been challenged by demobilized groups backing Brooklyn Rivera, director of the Institute for the Development of the Autonomous Regions. [passage omitted]

Waspan remains under the control of approximately 400 armed Yatama men under the command of former Somoza Army member Manuel Cuningham, alias Tigre 17. The group captured five Sandinists and forced them to lie naked under the sun for almost eight hours on 21 February.

Cesar Paiz, department representative of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, condemned these actions. "A vengeful and criminal attitude against the Sandinists still prevails."

In Waspan, the townspeople are still fearful, and every night they go to sleep on the other side of the Coco River.

Military sources said they "have not moved to restore calm in Waspan to avoid a military confrontation and the return of the Miskito communities to Honduras." [passage omitted]

Traffic jams and criminal activities are common on most major roads leading to thde region. From Maniwatla and from km 43 on the road to Rosita, there are reports of attacks on transportation vehicles and workers.

Local businessmen are complaining about "being harmed by the continuous attacks, robberies, and lack of security in the region, where chaos and anarchy rule." [passage omitted]

The governor of the North Atlantic Autonomous Region, Leonel Panting, said the central government is responsible for the crisis in the region, a crisis worsened in recent days by the Army's intervention.

Panting accused the government of "preferring the use of weapons and force" over dialogue to resolve the problems of the North Atlantic. He said this is "characteristic of colonial powers in dealing with a colony."

Panting said for the past two years he has been urging Managua to hold a dialogue "to establish administrative limits on the autonomous government and the central government" in the Atlantic regions, "but the authorities have not responded."

According to Panting, "Brooklyn Rivera is the leader of a central government plot to destroy our autonomy process, a plot that goes against the historic aspirations of Indian and ethnic communities of the Atlantic coast."

Minister Signs UN Economic Cooperation Agreement

PA2102152092 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Excerpt] On 20 February, Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger and UN representative in Nicaragua Francesco Vincenti signed three important cooperation projects worth an estimated $1.8397 million [number as heard]. The goal of these projects is to coordinate the economic policy, support the privatization process, and reform the Central Bank.

On behalf of the Chamorro administration, Foreign Cooperation Minister Kruger thanked and congratulated Vincenti for signing the agreement of the fifth round of cooperation between the United Nations and Nicaragua. [passage omitted]

France To Increase Aid to Country by 20 Percent

PM2102143292 Paris LE MONDE in French 15 Feb 92 p 3

[Bertrand de la Grange report: "France Will Increase Its Aid to Managua to 'Help Consolidate Democracy'"]

[Text] Managua—After heading the French delegation to the UN Conference on Trade and Development meeting in Cartagena (Colombia), Alain Vivien, French secretary of state for foreign affairs, made an official visit to Central America and Mexico that took him to Managua on Thursday 13 February. France's aid to Nicaragua will be increased, he promised, but it will not reach the same levels as when the Sandinistas were in power.

At the end of a meeting with the Nicaraguan president, Alain Vivien said the national reconciliation policy pursued by Mrs. Violeta Chamorro since her victory in the 1990 elections was "the only possible course." "It could serve as an example to the other countries in the region," Mr. Vivien stressed. Vivien also had a meeting with Daniel Ortega, leader of the Sandinista opposition, and with Antonio Lacayo, Mrs. Chamorro's son-in-law and the "strong man" of the government.

To "contribute to the consolidation of democracy," France has decided to increase its aid to Nicaragua by 20 percent compared with 1991 in the framework of cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation. This aid, which will amount to 10 million francs in 1992, is lower than the credit granted to the government that emerged from the 1979 Sandinista revolution (12 million francs in 1985, which was halved the following year when Jacques Chirac's government took office).

Managua will continue to receive annual food aid of 6,000 tonnes of wheat, sold on the local market to finance small projects. A financial agreement worth 60 million francs should be signed soon, notably for the renovation of a hospital, the improvement of the drinking water supply, and perhaps the extension of the telephone network, Mr. Vivien said.

Destabilizing Factors

After last year's renegotiation of the debt on very favorable terms by Nicaragua's Paris Club creditors, Mrs. Chamorro's government hopes for an increase in GNP in 1992 for the first time in eight years. In the streets of Managua there are signs of recovery, with the opening of numerous stores, restaurants, and even six private banks. The number of cars has doubled, but Ramiro Gurdian, chairman of the employers' council, lamented: "There is still no investment to revive production." Hence the spectacular increase in unemployment and the black economy. The employers and some political sections of the majority are still very worried by two destabilizing factors: the proliferation of armed groups that are constantly laying down their arms and taking them up again when they feel threatened by their opponents; and the problem of property that has still not been solved following the large-scale distribution of goods confiscated by the Sandinista Front. Despite Mrs. Chamorro's veto on a law in December to review these expropriations, the National Assembly is preparing to submit a new text. "This time," National Assembly Speaker Alfredo Cesar, the main promoter of this law, said, "we are counting on international support. The U.S. Congress, two European governments, and a Latin American country are prepared to hold back their aid to Nicaragua until our government has compensated the victims of these confiscations."

Panama

Endara on Future of Panama Canal Operations

PA2102175192 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Feb 92 pp a1, a2

[Article by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara said on 20 February the organization to be established to administer the Panama Canal will be an autonomous organization, as far as its operations and responsibilities are concerned.

In a declaration of principles disclosed to the national and international press, Endara said the policy for the maintenance and improvements of the canal will continue through programs and projects to guarantee its permanent modernization, capacity, efficiency, and use according to maritime and commercial demands.

The president said the standards and regulations for the hiring of personnel will contain a merit system, employment policies, training programs, and comprehensive compensation package to guarantee security, increase morale, and promote worker productivity without harming the current work terms and conditions.

He said job opportunities, regardless of nationality, will expand for highly qualified workers who have the training and experience necessary for the administration, operation, and maintenance of the canal.

He concluded by saying the cabinet will authorize a minister to present before the Legislative Assembly the constitutional reforms and drafts necessary so the Panamanian legislation will meet the demands and needs of the canal.

Linares on U.S. Bill To Modify Canal Treaties

PA2202194192 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Feb 92 p 1A

[Article by Luis Alberto Dudley Porras]

[Text] On 21 February, Foreign Minister Julio Linares warned that if the United States approves an internal law violating the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties, "the government will issue a protest."

Linares made the aforementioned statements after commenting on the possibility that the bill presented by some representatives before Congress may affect the future administration of the canal.

The foreign minister stated that any objection on the part of Panama will be made when the bill is passed, but for now "only the passage of an internal bill has been requested."

Linares added that Panama agrees with the demilitarization of the administration of the canal, as was proposed by some North American congressmen. He explained that on this particular issue, a note of approval was sent in July 1991 to the government of George Bush.

The foreign minister explained that "if Panama endorses the demilitarization of our country and if we want to be consistent with this policy, we would also have to promote the demilitarization of the administration of the canal."

"It is a reality that when the Panama Canal is turned over to Panamanian hands in 1999, civilian officials will be responsible for running the canal, thus this transition should logically begin to be implemented now," Linares stressed.

Meanwhile, he stated that the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) signed by both countries is not binding until it is ratified by both nations.

By way of the MLAT, the two countries pledged to assist each other in fighting money "laundering" resulting from drug trafficking activities.

When questioned on the possible creation of an office under the Government and Justice Ministry to deal with matters pertaining to the MLAT, Linares stated that "other legal assistance treaties are being negotiated with other countries, among which he mentioned the United Kingdom and Portugal. [no closing quotation mark as published]

Arias Dismisses U.S. Plan To Control Canal

PA2102150092 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Feb 92 p A2

[Report by Claudio Herrera Jimenez]

[Text] First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon on 20 February reiterated his support for "the full Panamanization of the Panama Canal," and dismissed the plan by a group in the U.S. House of Representatives to extend U.S. control over the waterway beyond the year 2000.

He rebuked the executive branch for not carrying out the suggestion made by an ad hoc commission to create a national commission to prepare the country to administer the canal.

The Christian Democratic Party leader recalled that the ad hoc commission, which submitted its report on 30 September 1991, is still waiting for the executive branch to create the national commission.

Arias Calderon proposed during the first Communications Students' Congress the establishment of an interuniversity institute to investigate all matters pertaining to the canal.

According to Arias Calderon, that institute would make it possible to gather information on the waterway.

"Much remains to be done, and we must do it," Arias Calderon noted, stressing the work must be carried out under the sign of national unity.

It was reported that the National Commission, which has yet to be installed, must include various political sectors as well as legislators.

According to a report datelined in Washington, Texas Congressman Jack Fields wants to send a "clear message to the Panamanian Government on how we would like the canal to work."

New Agency Formed To Implement MLAT

PA2202011692 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] The Ministry of Government and Justice has created a new government institution for the coordination and implementation of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty [MLAT]. Its functions will include ensuring that requests for searches and confiscations are carried out, transferring to the United States individuals who agree to testify, freezing assets that may be confiscated, and exchanging information related to the prevention, investigation, and adjudication of crimes.

Reaction to Possibility of New U.S. Invasion Cited

PA2202154792

[Editorial Report] Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 18 February carries a three-minute report citing an article by THE NEW YORK TIMES on plans by the U.S. Pentagon to invade Panama should there be "destabilization actions by Panamanian military groups allied with drug traffickers and by Colombian guerrillas that may hamper the operation of the Panama Canal." The report also broadcasts remarks by different prominent figures. Olimpo Saez, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National Legislative Assembly, states "the Pentagon's message is not directly aimed at Panama." Instead, Saez feels, the message is aimed at military acting in collusion with drug mafias, who seek to "take control of some government agencies to protect the traffic of cocaine to the United States." When asked about the report, National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez declined to comment. Eduardo Vallarino, former ambassador to the United States, however, stated: "This is normal, because we have signed a treaty in perpetuity with the United States on the Panama Canal. This is merely a contingency plan by the United States."

Paris AFP in Spanish at 1859 GMT on 18 February carries a 200-word report on a survey taken by Circuito RPC Radio on reaction to THE NEW YORK TIMES article. "Approximately 57 percent of Panamanians would approve a new U.S. military intervention before the year 2000 if a coup imperils the Panama Canal," it reports. The AFP dispatch adds that 43 percent of those surveyed rejected an invasion.

World Bank Approves $120 Million in Loans

PA2102181092 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Feb 92 p 1A

[Article by Elio A. Rujano M.]

[Text] The World Bank approved $120 million in loans on 20 February to revitalize the Panamanian economy and support the economic program of President Guillermo Endara, the banking institution reported in a communique. This is the biggest loan granted to Panama since 1953 and the first since 1986.

Panama stopped paying its debts to the International Financial Institutions (IFI) following the political crisis experienced during the Noriega regime.

In Washington, Guillermo Ford, second vice president and planning and economic policy minister, paid off $645.8 million in arrears with the IFI. Ford paid the World Bank $220.3 million that had accumulated between November 1987 and March 1990.

The money will be paid out to Panama within a period of 18 months, in three installments of $60 million, $25 million, and $33.2 million, respectively, as well as $1.8 million in technical assistance.

The loans will continue to be granted as long as Panama complies with the Program for Economic Recovery and Modernization, also known as "the Ford Plan," the communique adds.

The loan granted to Panama has a 17-year span, including a five-year grace period with a variable interest rate, which currently stands at 7.73 percent. It also includes a 0.25-percent annual commission over the unpaid balance.

The World Bank expects the Panamanian Government program will promote trade, increase productivity, and improve the country's competitiveness at an international level.

M-20 Rebels Blamed for Destroying Power Towers

PA2102230692 Paris AFP in Spanish 1813 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Panama City, 21 February (AFP)—On 21 February, Panamanian authorities blamed the M-20 [20 December Movement] rebel group for the destruction of two power towers in Arraijan District, 20 km west of Panama City.

A police spokesman stated to the media that the alleged rebels had telephoned to say that they were responsible for bringing down the power towers. The towers were hacked downed with an axe on the night of 20 February, leaving the Arraijan area without electricity.

According to the police, the M-20 formed following the U.S. invasion on 20 December 1989, and they are allegedly responsible for 25 attacks that have taken place over the past 26 months.

An M-20 proclamation issued last week indicated that the rebels have created a military staff intent on overthrowing the government of President Guillermo Endara.

The police have offered a reward of $10,000 for information that may lead to the arrest of Major Carlos Saldana and Maj. Alcibiades Rodriguez, the alleged leaders of the M-20.

A second lieutenant of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's now defunct defense forces died on 19 February while trying to rob a bank with two former corporals, who were arrested.

The local press identified the three assailants as M-20 members.

The authorities have confirmed the existence of the M-20 and two other clandestine organizations—the Torrijist Resistance [Resistencia Torrijista] and the Torrijist National Liberation Movement [Movimiento Torrijista de Liberacion Nacional].

Argentina

Cheney's Remarks on Military Cooperation Reported

PY2102174292 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2230 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 20 Feb (NA)—U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney today promised Congress that his country will increase military cooperation with Argentina through the provision of two ships, two Hercules C-130 planes, and the refitting of six other C-130s.

During a 50-minute visit to the Defense Committees of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies, Cheney denied charges by Radical Party representatives of alleged "pressure" by Washington for the dismantling of the Condor-2 missile. Cheney said that "it was a sovereign decision by the Argentine Government." [passage omitted]

In a cordial atmosphere, Cheney thanked Congress for the "participation of the Argentine ships in the Persian Gulf conflict" and expressed the desire of the U.S. Government to "continue to improve our relations."

During his visit, Cheney announced that the United States "will cooperate with Argentina by providing a fuel tanker for Antarctic waters and an operational support ship.

He said that "two Hercules C-130 planes will be added and [words indistinct] we will cooperate with the refitting of six Argentine C-130 planes.

Radical Senator Luis Leon asked him about the reasons for the new blockade of Iraq. Cheney replied that "there is continuity in the UN decision because Saddam Husayn did not fulfill his promise to deactivate his nuclear weapons."

Leon complained about the "pressure that the U.S. Government has exercised for the deactivation of the Condor-2 missile, which is a technological project that has been expensive for the country." Cheney replied that "it was a sovereign decision by the Argentine Government."

Chaco Province Senator Leon told him that "Pentagon and Defense Department inspectors came to check the process." Cheney replied that "we are in a global disarmament phase."

Deputy Humberto Romero, a former defense minister, commented on the meeting that "since the United States and the CIS are substantially reducing their defense spending, the Condor-2 project was not essential now that the Armed Forces budget has been reduced in line with the international trend."

Miguel Angel Toma, chairman of the Defense Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "even though the Condor-2 was initially a rocket, it tended toward becoming a remote-controlled missile."

He added that "Cheney did not see anything wrong with Argentina's decision to concentrate efforts on technologies for peaceful use."

Deputy Conrado Storani said, however, that "for us, the Condor is a satellite launcher that was deactivated under commercial pressure from the United States, the CIS, and the EEC."

"The United States did not adopt the same attitude with respect to the Brazilian Sonda rocket, which has a longer range than the Condor. The United States has even sold subsidized wheat to Brazil," he said.

Deputies Toma and Storani told Cheney of the "aspirations of the entire Congress that the Argentine Pampa plane will participate in the international bid that the United States will sponsor for the purchase of 800 training planes." This matter will be decided by Washington in 1994.

Storani said that Argentina can successfully participate in the bid and emerge as the winner."

He then discussed with Cheney the regional antidrug fight that the United States has promoted, telling him that "it must be handled by the security forces, and not by the Armed Forces. Not even in your own country are the Armed Forces participating," he said.

Defense Minister Comments

PY2102194692 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1244 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Feb (TELAM)—Commenting on the visit made through today to the country by U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, Argentine Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez said: "In general terms, the visit has been instrumental in consolidating our fraternal, friendly ties, and in implementing cooperation plans between our two armed forces."

Gonzalez, who bade farewell to Cheney at Ezeiza International Airport, said: "In line with the philosophy and concepts followed by the Argentine Government, we discussed the Iraqi case as well as sending troops to Yugoslavia."

Commenting on the Iraqi case, he said: "It is a reinforcement of the blockade imposed under a UN resolution in light of some signs indicating that Saddam Husayn might be making plans to rearm his country."

"The blockade," Gonzalez said, "will seek to prevent an Iraqi rearmament without bringing any adverse effects upon the Iraqi people because widely used food and medicines will not be interdicted. Only those materials that can be used for military purposes will be affected by the blockade."

In remarks to a radio station, Gonzalez added: "To mention specific results, an announcement was made about the transfer of two ships to Argentina. One ship is equipped to go to the Antarctic to replace the Bahia Buen Suceso, which had an accident in southern Argentine waters, and the second one will be an auxiliary ship designed to give logistical support to the first ship."

Gonzalez added: "We can announce that two C-130 Hercules planes will be made available to us in addition to the other two we obtained approximately three months ago. This means that we would incorporate four C-130 planes, which can be used for long-distance transportation of heavy commodities for cases of emergency and disaster—such as the ones Argentina is experiencing as a result of floods and the cholera outbreak, in addition to their regular military uses."

The defense minister denied reports that, during Cheney's meeting with Argentine congressmen, Radical Civic Union Senator Luis Leon described Argentine military officers as mercenaries for their willingness to participate in the blockade against Iraq [passage indistinct] "analyzed the reasons for having to reinforce the blockade and if the United States and the multinational forces had not completed their task by overthrowing Saddam [as received]. This is neither the UN goal nor that of Argentina. We are respectful of the UN framework and we are not interfering in the domestic affairs of another country," Gonzalez said.

Regarding the deployment of a peacekeeping force to Yugoslavia, Gonzalez said: "We have given a positive answer to a consultation made with us as one of the countries that eventually would be invited to join the UN peacekeeping force. The respective proposal, which was made by the UN General Assembly, must be confirmed by the UN Security Council."

Gonzalez made it clear that "the creation of the peacekeeping force is yet to be confirmed by the UN Security Council. When this happens, an official invitation must be extended to the respective countries outlining the conditions, financing, objective, estimated period, and so forth."

Menem Returns From Europe, Canela Summit

PY2102213492 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Report by Silvina Martinez Porta at Government House]

[Text] President Carlos Menem arrived in Buenos Aires shortly before noon, completing an 11-day tour. In his first trip abroad in 1992, Menem visited the French city of Strasbourg, the Kingdom of Belgium, and the French Republic. During the initial leg of his tour, Menem met EEC and European Parliament members and King Baudouin of Belgium. Within the framework of his official visit to France, Menem held a meeting with his counterpart Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Edith Cresson, and French Government officials.

After this tour, the chief executive traveled to the Brazilian city of Canela, where he participated in a meeting of Southern Cone presidents. Coincidentally, these also are the chiefs of state of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] countries. Chile was represented by its foreign minister.

At the Canela meeting, the presidents of Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, and Paraguay reviewed the position that they will present at the environmental summit the United Nations will sponsor in June in Rio de Janeiro.

In a joint declaration signed yesterday, the chiefs of state asked the industrialized nations to provide financing to protect the environment and proposed legal standards.

At the earth summit, as the UN conference has been named, the chiefs of state also will ask the industrialized nations to transfer anti-pollution technology that their industries cannot finance.

Carlos Menem, Andres Rodriguez, and Fernando Collor de Mello approved a proposal raised by Uruguay to create international legislation on punishment for offending countries.

The Argentine chief of state arrived in Buenos Aires a few minutes after 1100 and from the metropolitan airport he went to the Olivos residence, where he will remain the rest of the day reviewing various matters.

Remarks Cited

PY2302213292 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Feb 92 p 11

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Buoyed by the success of his European tour, President Carlos Menem returned to Argentina in a confident mood yesterday and immediately ratified his controversial friend and Mint President Armando Gostanian in office.

"I will not ask for his resignation," said Menem. "If anyone thinks he has infringed the law, he should file charges in court."

Gostanian faces numerous charges of irregularities in the Mint, from the printing of fake bills with Menem's image to the repetition of serial numbers. Although not yet indicted, the Mint chief is expected to be summoned for questioning next week by Judge Nestor Blondi.

Menem yesterday also confirmed his support for Social Security Secretary Walter Shulthess, who came under fire this week after disclosing details of the government's planned reform of the pension system.

According to the president, Schulthess "is a technical authority who may have been misinterpreted" when he said no contributions made by workers under 45 years of age would be recognized by private pension funds.

"Nobody loses anything nor is anybody robbed. All the contrary, said Menem. [no closing quotation mark as published]

"We were handed a shattered social security system, with a debt of nearly $10 billion, and our aim is to lower the number of people who receive minimum pensions and increase the ranks of those who get higher retirement pay," said the president.

Menem further explained that "in 1991, the social security system received an extra 2,000 million dollars. Thanks to those funds, pensioners who were getting between 20 dollars and 26 dollars in 1989 today get a minimum of 150, the highest pension floor in America after the United States," said Menem.

Regarding his European tour, Menem said "this has been the most successful delegation that has traveled to Europe with the head of state." He also highlighted the reaction of the foreign media, which generally "reported that Argentina has joined the ranks of the nations that have overcome stagnation and recession to regain their status through systematic reforms."

The president defended his idea to promote the immigration of East Europeans, which "in no way will mean taking jobs away from Argentines."

Finally, he repeated Argentina's offer to send Army officers to Yugoslavia to join a United Nations peace-keeping force, saying the country was "well and able" to join the international effort. Menem made clear that the deployment would be financed through a special UN fund.

Deputy Calls Pension Proposal 'Horrific Fraud'

PY2102212692 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The government's proposed abolition of $65 billion worth of pension contributions was described as "the most horrific fraud in Argentine history," by Democratic Centre Union (UCeDe) Deputy Federico Clerici yesterday, reflecting the shock the news caused among contributors.

The prospect of not much more than the minimum 150-peso pension at the end of their working life hangs over all workers and employees under 45 since Wednesday, when the government announced that their contributions so far would not be recognized after the privatizing of Argentina's pension funds.

Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo stepped forward to defend the appropriation yesterday, albeit only half-heartedly. "The rights of workers will be respected," the minister told reporters while refusing to comment on the unfairness it implies for workers who paid contributions over the minimum during their working years so far.

"You should ask the minister of labour... he's the one working on the project. In any case, everything will depend on what Congress finally sanctions," Cavallo said.

Incredibly, given the circumstances, Cavallo did not seem to feel that the appropriation justifies those who evaded pension contribution in the last 25 years. "In Argentina, anybody who doesn't pay taxes either goes to jail or has to pay up. Let nobody be mistaken, there will be no tax or pension funds whitewash here," he warned.

Social Security Secretary Walter Schultess, defending the move, revealed yesterday that not only will personal contributions not be recognized when the switchover to a private system takes place, but that the government could not do so even if it wanted to. "No information exists regarding the amounts contributed, no individual accounts have been kept," Schultess said on a Radio Mitre talk show yesterday. He nonetheless calculated the missing amount at 65 billion dollars.

Deputy Clerici, also interviewed by the radio, said the government's unwillingness to recognize its debt to the pension funds (rifled by successive Argentine governments for short-term political gain) is "tantamount to refusing to recognize the foreign debt. A debt is a debt, I believe. For the secretary (Schultess) to furthermore reveal that the state doesn't have the records of how much it owes each individual is simply an indication of the monstrosity of what has occurred during successive Argentine governments."

Meanwhile, a group of legislators called for Schultess' presence in Congress to explain the vanquishing of the pension funds debt, adding that they will seek legal action to block the initiative. Among them were deputies Alejandro Armendariz (UCR), [Radical Civic Union], Carlos "Chacho" Alavarez (dissident Peronist), Clerici and Juan Manuel Moure (UCR).

Counterproposal Made on Debt-Reduction Program

PY2102211092 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] (NA)—Argentina's foreign creditor banks yesterday handed the government their formal counter-proposal to its debt-reduction programme.

The banks want at least $1 billion in cash on account of due payments and offer only a 30 percent debt reduction if Argentina enters the Brady Plan.

Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said that his team "will carefully study the fiscal implications of the banks' counter-proposal."

An Economy Ministry source pointed out that "what the creditor banks did not seem to understand is that the Central Bank reserves cannot be used for paying them because they belong to all of those who own pesos.

* Manzano's Political Strategy Analyzed

92SM0244A Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Jan 92 p 7

[Report by Sergio Crivelli]

[Text] Jose Luis Manzano is not afraid of commonplaces, even very hackneyed ones. So in one of his moments of greatest weakness in the government's internal power struggle, he reached the conclusion that the best defense was a good offense, and launched a simultaneous offensive on three fronts—the Justicialist Party, the constitutional reform, and control of the state-run media. This caught both his adversaries and observers by surprise, and made him the center of the political debate during the past week.

In none of these three fronts did he achieve any striking success, but he did make visible progress in some areas. Not in the case of the PJ [Justicialist Party], though, where his initial attack ran out of steam. He had hoped that with the resignations of Carlos Menem and Eduardo Duhalde from the top party leadership posts, everything would fall into the hands of Roberto Garcia from the cab drivers' union, a leader connected with the "celeste" faction and one of its political hacks.

To get things moving rapidly, the "unionist" Garcia was called back from Cancun, where he was vacationing with his entire family, and the rest of the members of the national Justicialist council were urgently summoned to attend a meeting. His plan, though, was partially frustrated because Duhalde did not resign his post; this posed an obstacle to any discretional management of the party structure by the "celestes."

Actually, this is not a very broad-based representative group within Peronism. Both Manzano and Bauza lost the internal party power struggles in their province, and Eduardo Menem's only political clout comes from his name. Roberto Garcia became the leader of the taxicab owners' union through a tiny number of votes.

In reality, the "celestes'" strength lies in their involvement in what politicians call the "upper reaches" of power. That is, in their access to government offices. This explains their notable capacity to occupy vacant spaces and posts, to surround the chief of state and prevail in the bitter power struggles in the the Casa Rosada, as the most homogenous and strongest group. But they have no votes. And that explains their objective weakness in relation to Duhalde, who does have the votes.

Manzano vs. Neustadt

Why did Manzano want control of the PJ? For a number of reasons. The first was immediately derived from the national council's surprising statement against "entrismo" (infiltration) "by unidentified sectors in the PJ." To whom did the term "entrismo" refer?

Peronism has a history rich in "entrismo," because of the violent ideological mutations it has passed through ever since it was founded. In 1946 the "infiltrators" came from the far right—nationalists and conservatives—who were attracted by an unmistakable authoritarian aroma in the plans of the then "people's colonel," and by the ostensible cult of the symbols and languages of fascism. During the 1970's, after a lengthy struggle in which the left made itself heard, Peronism was taken over by elements of that origin—mostly violent—and "entrismo" was then a phenomenon encouraged by leaders who were Marxist sympathizers.

But to what sector do today's infiltrators belong—people attracted by Carlos Menem's success? Where do the men come from who compete with the "celestes" to influence the chief of state? Once again from the right, but this time they belong to what Manzano and his allies call the "establishment."

Inevitably, the man who responded to those impersonal charges was Alvaro Alsogaray, but he is not the one troubling the minister of the interior. His biggest concern now is Bernardo Neustadt, the only adversary on his level in the Casa Rosada power struggle. And the Menem administration's "communicator par excellence" has aimed his guns at the minister, if the version persistently making the rounds in the Casa Rosada is to be believed.

In the near future people expect him to launch a campaign against corruption, and everyone remembers that it was Neustadt's persistence about this issue that persuaded the president to get rid of Vicco and Mazzon. And Mazzon had been close to Jose Luis Manzano.

But not even Manzanist circles can determine whether the journalist-ideologue of the Menem administration speaks only for himself, or if he reflects the thinking of the U.S. embassy.

In essence, the charges of "entrismo" and the eventual controversy about ideological purity and the backgrounds of the men surrounding Menem are governed exclusively by the silent—for the time being—dispute between Manzano and Neustadt. It is clear that the minister of the interior was not concerned about the inclusion of some non-Peronists in the government, like the former minister and now candidate for senator, Avelino Porto.

Manzano actually promoted Porto's candidacy in order to establish a foothold inside the PJ in the capital, a district to which he wants to move, since there is no room for him in Mendoza. Carlos Grosso had wanted to block this invasion, but he was finally persuaded that it would be in his best interests to submit to the plan—backed by Menem—and to become Porto's political "sponsor."

The Pro-Reform Offensive

The unexpected forward movement of the constitutional reform bill that would allow Carlos Menem to be reelected in 1995 must also be viewed against the background of the government's internal battles. The issue has become a cause for rivalry among the various cliques that surround the president, and that want to hand him the possibility of remaining in office until the end of the century as a trophy.

Here again the man who took the lead, as always, was Jose Luis Manzano. His idea continues to be a pact with the radicals, so that they will support the reform in the Chamber of Deputies; almost simultaneously, Cesar Jaroslavsky publicly came out to say that no obstacles should be placed in the way of the president's wishes. But the radicals are still unyielding, and they will undoubtedly block the reelection bill; so Manzano saw that Duhalde was once again opposing him. The governor of the Province of Buenos Aires is trying to bring together provincial allies and allies on the right in order to win the two-thirds majority required in the Lower Chamber.

This was in essence the basic reason behind the movements and strategies deployed on the constitutional reform issue. The doctrinal debate behind which they have tried to conceal these maneuvers was nothing but a disguise used for the benefit of public opinion and the constitutionalists.

During this hyperactive week, the interior minister also tried to take action related to the state communications media. In doing so, he clashed sharply with Humberto Toledo, Raul Burzaco, and the "orthodox" Peronists in charge of TELAM. Here, Manzano is expected to make progress with Toledo's resignation, Burzaco's appointment as presidential spokesperson, and that of Huge Sofovich as secretary of the communications media. This would give the minister access to the management of political spots in ATC [Argentina Televisora Color] and in the official news agency.

Brazil

Collor on Environmental Issues, 'Letter of Canela'

PY2202131292 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Excerpt] President Fernando Collor is already back in Brasilia after spending two days in Canela, Rio Grande do Sul State. He participated in a meeting of Southern Cone presidents. During the meeting, the Letter of Canela, containing common proposals on the environment, proposals that will be presented at the Rio-92 Conference [on Environment and Development], was released.

In the Letter of Canela, the presidents ask the rich nations to provide financial support for the sustained development of poorer nations.

Reporter Luiz Gonzaga Capadiedi went with President Collor for a walk this morning through the streets of the city. During his walk, the president talked to the press.

[Begin relay] Before returning to Brasilia today, President Fernando Collor talked about this call for help made to the rich countries in the Letter of Canela.

[Begin Collor recording] There is no desire to exert pressure, nor any imposition. Our desire, our desire, [repeats] and our hope is that we will be able to call on the more industrialized countries to hold a collective, understanding, constructive, and positive meeting on new forms of development that we will have to find in order to build an environmentally healthy and socially just planet. [end recording]

President Fernando Collor did not rule out the possibility of discussing the foreign debt with the creditor countries so that there will be more funds for environmental issues.

[Begin Collor recording] I believe everything is a bit interrelated. In the first place, it is necessary for all the countries to be willing to discuss the problem. We cannot discuss the environmental issue selectively.

We cannot discuss the environmental issue without taking into account the world's social issues because they are interrelated. There are various forms of pollution in which we engage, both consciously and subconsciously.

The subconscious pollution is caused by the developing countries, which, as a result of misery, poverty, and extreme difficulties in which most of their populations survive, are almost dragged into a devastation that I would also label as subconscious.

There is also conscious pollution, promoted by the super-industrialized countries [words indistinct] chemical sprays that are causing all these damaging effects to our planet, such as the hole in the ozone layer, the greenhouse effect, acid rain, the environmental pollution of the seas where large tankers spill petroleum into our oceans, the nuclear devices that are sunk and that [words indistinct] when they are not rescued in time, which will happen when these nuclear warheads explode in these vessels, the 30 or 31 submarines sunk [words indistinct].

In sum, these matters allow us to determine a form of conscious pollution that must be stopped by the developed countries. [end recording]

The Letter of Canela also established the need to create an international code to combat crimes against nature. President Collor called this one of the most positive aspects of the document signed by the presidents in Canela.

[Begin Collor recording, in progress] ...it is a great step and a very important one. We established a code for the preservation of the environment. We established principles, principles of a general order, of preservation of the environment and, of course, each country, each sovereign state would adjust this code to their specific legislation and also ... [end recording, in progress] [passage omitted] [end relay]

More on Collor's Comments

PY2202135292 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Excerpt] During a walk in Canela, before returning to Brasilia, President Fernando Collor said that 1992 will

be a decisive year and that over the next two years, growth will be resumed, salaries will improve, the number of jobs and productivity will increase. Collor spent two days in Canela, where he met the presidents of the countries of the Common Market of South. The president pointed out that predisposition, a strong will, and solidarity must prevail in the community if we want to obtain all that.

He asserted that he has information indicating that the inflation rate will decrease to about 21 percent in February and added that inflation is completely under control. He explained that the 27 percent inflation rate predicted by the Getulio Vargas Foundation is merely an estimate.

Regarding environmental control, President Collor said that in Third World countries the issue must be linked to the conditions for the renegotiation of their foreign debt and that the developed countries must be willing to discuss the issue. [passage omitted]

Bill on 'Sensitive Technology' Sent to Congress

PY2302012492 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Feb 92 p 10

[Report by Tania Monteiro]

[Text] Brasilia—President Fernando Collor has sent Congress a bill making it a crime to import or export items that can be employed directly for military purposes (to produce the most modern equipment), that can be used both ways (for peace or war), or that are nuclear components. The bill, which is aimed at controlling transactions involving sensitive technology, also labels as a crime the export of services directly related to the use of military materiel or to material and equipment used for nuclear projects. Those found guilty will be liable to punishments ranging from a warning to prison terms of between one and four years.

The bill, prepared by the Strategic Affairs Secretariat (SAE), has the approval of all military ministers. This bill builds upon the one the executive sent to Congress in February 1991. Congress has already approved that bill, which was called the Piva law at the time because it banned the transfer of technology and established safeguards for secret activities. Brigadier Hugo de Oliveira Piva, former director of the Aerospace Technology Center (CTA) was accused of transferring technology to Iraq during the Gulf war.

The first bill dealt with punishment. The one submitted now establishes rules and regulations for importing and exporting items. It also lists all those criminally responsible for violations; the controller and the director or manager of any corporation that may participate in any way whatsoever in perpetration of the crime.

The SAE is about to produce three other bills. The first will create the Brazilian Space Agency [Agencia Espacial Brasileira], replacing the Brazilian Commission for Space Activities (Cobae), which is under the jurisdiction of the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA). The second bill provides the general outline of Brazil's nuclear policy and the third bill lists the projects that are considered high priorities for the country as a way of setting the course for Brazil's nuclear program. Thus, the doom of the Army project to attain control over the uranium enrichment cycle has been made official.

The bill proposes that rules and regulations concerning technical and administrative issues be defined later. The bill calls for establishment of an International Import Certificate (CII) [Certificado Internacional de Importacao] and a Delivery Verification Certificate (CVE) [Certificado de Verificacao de Entrega]. Through the CII, the importer undertakes the commitment not to export the acquired item without prior government authorization. The CVE will be proof that the item entered Brazil.

The Official Gazette will periodically publish updated lists of controlled import and export items. The Armed Forces will not require prior authorization to import items and services for their exclusive use in performing their constitutional duties.

The SAE will coordinate the work of a recently created permanent interministerial commission whose job will be to define the criteria and procedures to evaluate requests for the authorization of imports or exports of sensitive material. The commission will also draw up, update, and disseminate the lists of export and import items and clarify any doubts that may crop up in interpretation of the law.

According to its bill, the executive will be able to prevent or restrict import and export operations involving sensitive equipment and services depending on the origin or destination of said items or services.

Government Seeks Control of Entire Nuclear Cycle

PY2302191892 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Feb 92 p 14

[Excerpt] Brasilia—According to a bill that President Fernando Collor submitted to Congress yesterday, one of the objectives of the National Nuclear Energy Policy (PNEN) is to achieve control of the entire nuclear cycle, preferably with national technology. The bill establishes guidelines for Brazilian nuclear policy, which is coordinated by the Strategic Affairs Secretariat (SAE). It also establishes cooperation mechanisms between the federal government, state governments, the federal district, and municipal districts for controlling the transportation, handling, and use of radioactive substances and products in order to safeguard people's health and the environment.

The bill also advocates the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and government technological and industrial cooperation with Brazilian private enterprise. The bill states: "Technology that is developed independently or

transferred to private enterprises must be protected and controlled so it will not be used to manufacture nuclear weapons."

The bill also proposes that another nuclear policy objective is to achieve control and promote the use of nuclear technology, particularly in the health, agriculture, industrial, energy, and environment areas. It also upholds "complete safety" in operations in nuclear installations, in installations where radioactive materials are present, and in activities using ionizing radiation sources—such as ultraviolet light, X rays, and other radioactive sources that have high penetration power and can be absorbed by matter and break atoms or molecules—"for the safety of workers, the people in general, and the environment." [passage omitted]

Gros on Debt Rescheduling With Paris Club

PY2202215192 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Report by Alana Gandara]

[Text] During a lecture at the Brazilian-British Chamber of Commerce, the Central Bank chairman has said he hopes Brazil and the Paris Club will reach an agreement on the rescheduling of the foreign debt by next week.

According to estimates made by Central Bank Chairman Francisco Gros, the agreement between the Brazilian Government and the Paris Club will be achieved either on 3 or 4 March.

The Brazilian proposal to be approved by creditors seeks to reschedule over a longer period those Brazilian commitments that have accumulated over the last few years.

The $14 billion owed in arrears that will be rescheduled will be paid in 36 payments, two payments per year, over an 18-year period. An agreement with the Paris Club will help Brazil negotiate with private creditor banks, which are going well.

Addressing members of the Brazilian-British Chamber of Commerce, Gros said he believes this is not the proper time to tie the Brazilian economy to the dollar, as was proposed by former Economy Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen.

Gros believes that any artificial intervention in the economy would lead the country away from the economic readjustment needed to achieve an economic recovery.

* Background, Impact of Ministers' Ousting Viewed

92SM0242A Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 22 Jan 92 pp 16-22

[Text] Harassed by pensioners and by the Congress, Collor opens the debate concerning the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry and separates Magri from the honors and joys of the ministry.

It was the turn of the screw. The labor unionist who was appointed to the Cabinet in order to impart a pro-labor look to the Collor administration was ultimately dismissed during a mobilization of retired workers. A minister with about as much power as the queen of England and as much authority as a zombie, Antonio Rogerio Magri spent his final days at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare as the protagonist of a farce. On the morning of last Friday—when President Fernando Collor had already made up his mind to fire him—Magri was behaving as if he were going to remain in the Cabinet until 31 December 1994.

Very early that morning Magri had informed Deputy Benito Gama (PFL [Liberal Front Party]-Bahia) that this coming Thursday he would appear before Congress to explain the situation with respect to the ministry's accounts. At 1030 he telephoned a subordinate, Adival Rabello, the president of Dataprev [Social Security Data Processing Enterprise]—the enterprise that does the ministry's accounting—and scheduled a working meeting for early the following week. Then at 1130—long after the "last rites" for his job had already been administered at a meeting between Collor and his immediate aides—Magri gave a lengthy interview to Radio Bandeirantes of Sao Paulo during which he drew up a favorable balance sheet for his stewardship. "We are catching the cheats and correcting all the Ministry's problems," he naively declared.

On Friday afternoon—when the world had already crumbled around him—Magri made a cheerful appearance at Planalto Palace for a meeting with Collor. En route he passed through the office of General Agenor de Carvalho of the Military Household of the Presidency of the Republic, and in this way learned of his dismissal from one of his chief's subordinates. Collor was busy and did not meet with the former minister until late in the afternoon, following the "descent from the ramp" ceremony and after Planalto had already made the official announcement of Magri's departure from the government. Scheduled to accompany Magri in the procession of unemployed government officials, Minister of Social Action Margarida Procopio got the news of her dismissal from Collor's personal secretary, Claudio Vieira. In this respect she found herself in the same unpleasant situation as Magri: she received the news of her dismissal second hand. The possibility of retaining Margarida at the UTI [expansion not given] on the Esplanade of the Ministries was even considered, but in the end it was decided to carry out the double dismissal. "It was a question of solidarity," a Planalto aide explains. "In this way, the spotlight would fall on two former ministers at the same time rather on them one at a time."

"Baloney"

Magri and Margarida left the government as actors in a disgraceful drama in which Cabinet ministers who have been fired pretend that they mounted the scaffold spontaneously and of their own free will, while the president pretends to regret the loss of such valuable collaborators.

"I had already been talking with my aides several days ago, and decided it was time to leave the president completely free to make changes," Magri said, in explaining why he had decided to sacrifice himself. At a press conference, Margarida said she decided to leave the ministry because she believed her mission in the government had already been accomplished. When a reporter wanted to know why Collor had not asked her—even once—to remain as minister, Margarida engaged in some self-analysis. "The president knows that when I make a decision, it is final," she said.

This is typical baloney from former Cabinet ministers. Although his incompetence and disorganization made him a ridiculous figure, Magri had hung on to his job ever since the initial scandals in the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare erupted early in 1991, after which he offered his weight-lifter's shoulders for humiliating lashings by Planalto Palace but did not have the good sense to resign. Margarida's head had been exhibited on various platters that circulated through Planalto after she quarreled with First Lady Rosane and subsequently with Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes. Twenty-four hours before being fired, Magri and Margarida had lunch together and treated each other as allies within the government. What happened was that the on the previous day it had been rumored in Brasilia that Magri wanted to extend the tentacles of his ministry to the budget of Margarida's Ministry of Social Action. In an effort to make it clear that he did not dislike his colleague, Magri invited her to lunch. What really changed last week was the behavior of the president.

It is hardly likely that numerology has wrought a miracle, but the same week that he changed his signature on the advice of a wizard of the occult sciences, the president regained the political initiative that had appeared to leave him alone atop a garbage dump of scandals. Last week Collor fired two of his more embarrassing ministers, and thereby passed an eraser over much of the political disaster that has prevailed recently. People had been rooting almost aloud for the pair to be fired. You can forget about Margarida Procopio, an Alagoan social worker who cheapened her biography by enriching her native state of 2.4 million residents with 20 percent of the funds of the ministry she headed. Now that she is out of the Cabinet she will walk down the street without being recognized, because she left no visible trace of her stay in government. Margarida's lack of public importance was demonstrated last year, when she went for a holiday at the "Araras Inn" in the Petropolis region and decided to play the piano for the guests who were present. The concert lasted two hours and ended amid much applause—but no one was aware that the pianist was a Cabinet minister. Magri's dismissal, however, is indeed significant, as is likewise the appointment of Collor's two new ministers.

"Thief"

Invited to take the place of Margarida Procopio was Deputy Ricardo Fiuza (PFL [Liberal Front Party]-Pernambuco), leader of the government bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, a sugar mill owner with a waxed mustache who has always maintained undisputed leadership over the government bloc. Invited to replace the worker and labor unionist Rogerio Magri was an economist—Reinhold Stephanes of Parana—who has also headed Social Welfare successfully and is likewise a PFL deputy. Collor—who formerly used the PFL as he saw fit without sharing power with it—has now brought the party into the government; installed two clear channels to Congress, Fiuza and Stephanes; and gotten his second wind to deal with one of the most serious political challenges of his administration—the pressure from all Brazil to get him to deliver immediately the 147 percent increase to which the pensioners are entitled. "Congress continues to hold the same position with respect to the National Institute of Social Security, but the government has strengthened its ties with the members of Congress," says Deputy Antonio Delfim Netto of the PDS [Social Democratic Party]. "Fiuza is competent and has enormous prestige among his colleagues, and Stephanes is a man of great experience."

The dismissal of a Cabinet minister usually has a calming effect on political agitation—and this is one of the advantages of Magri's demise. Not since Collor took office has there been a social movement of the scope of the fight of the pensioners for the 147 percent "readjustment." The president inaugurated his administration by erecting defenses against the opposition of the PT [Workers Party] and the strikes of the CUT [United Federation of Workers], but all of a sudden he has found himself backed against the wall by a mobilization from below, directed by leaders whose names nobody knew and who until only recently received little attention from the media. Collor found himself hour by hour even more isolated than he had been previously, with Congress and public opinion on the side of the oldsters and in opposition to the government. Although Magri's demise has not initially solved any major problem, it has created a victim within Collor's team and calmed the situation temporarily. In this respect, it was a timely move in a government that has confused political efficiency with vulgar public relations "ploys."

The operation that resulted in the dismissal of Magri and Margarida began immediately following an official visit that Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho made to Congress last Thursday. Chosen to serve as the government's "Rambo" among the members of Congress, Passarinho was ultimately shot down on his mission. The government had sent a bill to the Chamber of Deputies calling for an increase in social security taxes collected from workers and businesses to defray the readjustment for the pensioners. Congress watered down the bill, and Passarinho went there to attempt to arrange matters. The atmosphere was so charged that at one point—in front of 200 deputies who simply did not believe the numbers

presented by the government—Passarinho made a pathetic appeal. "Can it be that we are such scoundrels that you do not believe our numbers?" he asked. Among other provocations, the minister even heard one woman deputy, Cidinha Campos (PDT [Democratic Workers Party]-Rio de Janeiro) call Jose Arnaldo Rossi, president of the National Social Security Institute, a "thief." On Friday morning, Fiuza and Reinhold Stephanes were invited to fill two positions on the Esplanade of the Ministries. "The atmosphere that week was leading to this change," Secretary for Regional Development Egberto Baptista says. "We can no longer govern without the politicians," Collor told Fiuza Friday afternoon in connection with the invitation.

Reinforcing the Prejudice

When he cleaned out the desk drawers in his ministry, Magri carried away with him one of the more recent fantasies of our national politics—the worker who takes off his overalls in order to hold public office. Magri left the government with the distinction of having been the most ridiculous Cabinet minister in the memory of Brazilians, and for many his failure demonstrates that the rules of public life should be the same as in private industry, where some citizens are paid to work with tools, others to design products on a drawing board, and still others to supervise everything from above. It is taken for granted that those who wear overalls will never get to paradise. The former minister himself left Brasilia convinced that this caste system played a role in bringing him down. "I was persecuted because of the prejudice held by the elite and part of the press, who never accepted the idea that a worker could be a Cabinet minister," Magri said. What is curious is the fact that this issue is not an invention of Collor's political laboratory, but instead was raised by the candidacy of his opponent in the second round of the presidential campaign, the metalworker Luis Inacio Lula da Silva.

"Unfortunately, Magri helped to reinforce this anti-worker prejudice," declares the trade unionist Luiz Antonio de Medeiros, former ally of the ex-minister in the competition with the CUT. "After his stay in the Cabinet, people are going to say that the worker's place is in the factory, and that he is not capable of doing anything else." The most beneficial feature of Magri's tenure in the government was that it revealed new aspects of this question. It is clear that Magri did not fail because he only completed the fourth year of elementary school and invented exquisite words such as "imexivel," said "vareia" instead of "varia," and said "escanfuchar" instead of "escarafunchar." If this were the problem, Dr. Zelia Cardoso de Mello, who studied in England and reads Thomas Mann, would not have produced a disaster of incalculable proportions when she left the Ministry of Economy. Nor would the mayor of Porto Alegre, Olivio Dutra, who is a banker, enjoy popularity ratings similar to those of former deputy Heraclito Fortes of Teresina and those of the entrepreneur Marcello Alencar of Rio de Janeiro.

Magri failed because he was a minister who did not take care of business. He bungled in respect to Finsocial [Social Investment Fund]—a tax that needed to be regulated in order to remain in effect and enable the Social Security Institute to be reinforced by $3 billion or $4 billion. He also bungled the regulation of the retirees' pensions, for if the regulation had been accomplished on time, the readjustments would not have been based on the minimum wage and would have been corrected by an index more advantageous for the government, namely the INPC [National Consumer Price Index]. But he forgot to take care of the matter and thereby left the door open for the pensioners to enter with their movement in favor of the 147-percent adjustment. People began to wonder why Magri did not leave, even though he was already discredited within the government, had become the butt of jokes at gatherings of businessmen and politicians, and was unable to impose his authority on his subordinates. The reason why is no mystery.

"Lazy and Exhibitionist"

As a minister, Magri never concealed his taste for first-class pleasures such as trips in executive jets, Hermes ties, and strolls in Switzerland with attractive young women clad in shorts. Magri is so fond of public money that he continued to receive two salaries—one as Cabinet minister and another as an employee of the Sao Paulo state enterprise Eletropaulo [Sao Paulo Electric Power Company]—until the courts ruled against it. Even after going to Brasilia he received a "merit promotion" to the position of "Specialist Administrator III" at Eletropaulo—a position that is exclusively for top professionals and carries a salary of approximately 2.4 million cruzeiros at current values, which is equal to the salary of the president of the company. Magri's misfortune is not the failure of a worker but the defeat of inefficiency. Magri's departure from the Esplanade of the Ministries brings to a close the recent Brazilian mania for ideologizing the public administration. The naive Left imagined that all you would need is a mayor from the PT to ensure a superadministration anywhere. Mayor Erundina is doing all right in Sao Paulo, but Maria Luiza Fontenelle was a failure in Fortaleza. "Magri was a lazy, exhibitionist minister," declares Deputy Jose Dirceu (PT-Sao Paulo). "He was used by the president to sell the idea that the government had a commitment of some kind to the workers."

Magri's fall from power will hasten his return to Eletropaulo—where the former minister will be able to retire next year on full salary at 51 years of age—but it has occurred at a particularly appropriate time for the Social Security Institute. For a long time it has been known that this kingdom of annuities and pensions for Brazilians is one of those permanent infernos, but this is the first time that a debate has been initiated in Brazil in which all the cards can be put on the table. A salutary consensus has been formed—in the government and in the opposition—to the effect that it is not possible to switch on the automatic pilot for the readjustments and increases unless one clearly defines whence the money will come to

pay the bill. Moreover, the implications of whatever option is chosen are now very clear. Central Bank President Francisco Gros landed in London last week to deliver a speech on investments in Brazil—but the principal subject of his talks was the concerns expressed by creditors over the increase of government spending for pensions. On Friday afternoon in Brasilia, Minister of Economy Marcilio Marques Moreira invited the ambassadors of the creditor nations to a meeting at which the same subject was discussed. On the eve of the signature of an agreement with the IMF, Marcilio attempted to reassure the ambassadors by informing them that regardless of whatever proposal is approved by Congress, the government will not increase its spending for the purpose of adjusting the pensions of the retirees.

Total Confusion

Brought to the surface by oldsters who had begun to take their case to the courts and ultimately brought down a minister who had been walking a slack rope, the Social Security debate revealed some serious and alarming facts. The existence of a pattern of cronyism and maladministration was discovered—a pattern that had created a situation whereby in terms of cumulative debt alone, the Institute recorded a loss of $8.5 billion owed by deadbeat businessmen or simple thieves wearing coat and tie who deduct the contribution of their employees but give themselves the money.

An audit has estimated that there are irregularities in half of the 12.7 million annuities and pensions paid monthly throughout the nation. The bill for the fraud and embezzlement amounts to a loss of $5 billion. A serious situation also exists in Social Security, which has no idea of the status of its accounts and confuses simple concepts. One of the lists of "debtors," for example, includes the Abril Publishing House, which pays its bills regularly but had gone to court to question some small sums that it did not think it owed Social Security. If mix-ups of this type—involving companies that do fulfill their social security commitments—can occur, one can only imagine what takes place within the monumental files of the Institute.

Along with these distasteful numbers, however, a debate has begun that could have a happy ending. When asked for its opinion, the CUT responded that it would like, for example, to take the administration of Social Security out of the hands of the government and turn it over to a corporate entity consisting of businessmen and trade unionists, as is the practice in some developed countries. In an official statement, the FIESP [Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries] put its finger on the sore spot of the business community by denouncing tax evasion. The Federation believes tax evaders should go to prison. In Brasilia detailed studies have already been made to establish a maximum pension at five times the minimum wage, so that workers making more than that ceiling would supplement their income in their old age by means of private funds. The debate has only just begun, but by freeing the government of a sacred cow, Collor has given a signal that the discourse could be worth while.

"There's Still Alceni"

With this latest round of musical chairs, the president has carried out a general reorganization of the Cabinet that was sworn in on 15 March 1990. Of the nine civilian ministers originally appointed, two remain: Minister of Foreign Affairs Francisco Rezek and the cyclist Alceni Guerra, whose continued tenure at the Ministry of Health is downright shocking. "There's still Alceni," declares Deputy Roberto Campos (PDS [Social Democratic Party]-Rio de Janeiro). Alceni's continued tenure in office is indeed intriguing. You can say a lot of bad things about Magri, but the fact is that he left the Cabinet without having been involved in a single allegation of embezzlement of public funds. Alceni may be entirely innocent of the scandals that have erupted within his ministry—and one must concede him this possibility. But the fact is that according to the most recent audits, the cases of irregularities in the Ministry of Health now total 47, and there is no point in pretending they do not exist.

One novel feature of the double demise of last week was a reversal of roles at Planalto Palace. Ambassador Marcos Coimbra, who is regarded as the intellectual mentor of Collor's principal political shifts of position, was in Maceio when Magri and Margarida lost their jobs and knew nothing about their dismissal. When Coimbra arrived back in Brasilia, the economist Reinhold Stephanes had already accepted Magri's post and Fiuza did not yet have Margarida's post only because he was in transit. The person who organized the changes was Minister of Justice Jarbas Passarinho, the government's political coordinator who until recently was having a hard time coordinating himself. What does this "changing of the guard" portend? Perhaps nothing, inasmuch as the president has aimed in various directions and fired at random with respect to this question of defining himself politically. He has already proclaimed himself to be a social democrat and also a social liberal. Less than three months ago he took the lead in defeating an amendment that would have set an early date for the plebiscite on the parliamentary system. Last week, the same president (now with the name of Fernando Collor Mello) was criticizing the presidential system and praising the parliamentary system. He is allied with the PFL [Liberal Front Party] and the PRN [National Reconstruction Party], but is now attracted to the "Tucanos" of the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party]. Perhaps by this maneuver that brought two PFL politicians into the Cabinet he has in some sense defined himself politically. A numerologist probably could answer this question.

[Box, p 20]

A Technical Expert Who Practices Karate

The new minister of Labor and Social Welfare—the economist Reinhold Stephanes, 52—has one obvious

credential for becoming part of the Collor administration: he loves to stage public relations "ploys." In 1974, when he took office as president of the former National Institute of Social Security (INPS), he tore up—in front of the television cameras—three files of useless documents on his desk, to symbolize the policy of debureaucratization that he proposed to introduce in the Institute. He was also the first head of the Institute to make unannounced visits to the queues and work stations of the INPS, always accompanied by a battery of reporters. Along with this credential, Stephanes displays still another—one that is basic for his new job: he has the reputation of being an honest administrator and a competent technician. During his tenure at the INPS hundreds of employees accused of approving false hospital admissions were punished and thousands of private hospitals that admitted patients unnecessarily merely to get more government money were prosecuted. In 1978, the INPS—under Stephanes—showed a surplus on its balance sheet.

Politically, Stephanes has always been on the side of the government, taking shelter successively under the labels of Arena [National Renewal Alliance], the PDS, and—most recently—the PFL. The new minister was serving his third term as federal deputy for Parana State. When he was elected in 1990 he said: "In the Chamber of Deputies I am going to line up with Collor's group." He had previously coordinated the team that prepared the Collor administration's health plan. His first public office was that of auditor in the Central Directorate of the Budget of Parana. Stephanes was one of a group of young men—newly graduated—who were known in Parana as "Ney-boys," because of their blind obedience to the directives of former governor Ney Braga, one of Parana's foremost political leaders. Stephanes subsequently held various posts in the municipality of Curitiba and in the ministries of Agriculture and Education.

He was born in Porto Uniao, Santa Catarina State; is married to Marlene de Almeida Stephanes; and has four children. "I am a liberal, an advocate of free enterprise, and favor the parliamentary system," is the way he usually defines himself. He was recently a leading prospective candidate for mayor of Curitiba, his principal political base. Stephanes and Collor have one other thing in common: they both practice karate.

[Box, p 21]

A Respected Organizer

On Friday afternoon Deputy Ricardo Ferreira Fiuza (PFL-Pernambuco) achieved a goal of long standing: to become a Cabinet minister. In the administration of former president Jose Sarney, he organized the conservative business community to lobby for his appointment as minister of Industry and Commerce but was defeated by Roberto Cardoso Alves. It is said that Sarney did not want a minister who was a sugar mill owner. At the time, Fiuza had confided to some friends that he was tired of life as a member of Congress and aspired to be in the Cabinet, even if it meant that he would have to sell his sugar mill in Alagoas. The mill was sold in September of last year. A skillful politician, Fiuza is serving his sixth term in Brasilia and is regarded—along with Miguel Arraes—as one of the most astute politicians in Pernambuco State. Until last Friday he was the leader of the PFL and of the pro-administration bloc in the Chamber of Deputies. In the Constituent Assembly he distinguished himself as one of the principal organizers of the "Centrao" [an interparty Centrist group].

Fiuza also has the reputation of being loyal to his constituents and collaborators. When the government launched Collor Plan II, for example, it was accompanied by a price freeze. Without anyone noticing, a price increase was simultaneously authorized for cement. In Brasilia, this feat was attributed to efforts by Fiuza, who promised to go to bat for the Plan if the price for cement were "readjusted." All this was designed to help his friend Joao Santos, owner of an extensive group of cement plants.

A 51-year-old native of Fortaleza, Ceara State, Fiuza is respected by both the Right and the Left. A lawyer and cattle rancher, he owns two ranches in Pernambuco and one in Maranhao and has an estimated net worth of $5 million. The new member of the Cabinet is married to Ilse Fiuza, has four children, and started out as a taxi driver. He was able to buy several cars and parked a small fleet in the back yard of his home, where he worked as an auto mechanic—a hobby he still practices today. In Brasilia he lives in a four-room apartment, two rooms of which are outfitted as offices. It is said that he had two reasons for doing this: first, so as not to be importuned at his congressional office by those who always are asking favors of members of Congress, and second, so that it would not occur to anyone to ask to be his house guest.

Chile

Cheney Arrives, Meets With Government Officials

PY2202120192 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney departed for Punta Arenas this afternoon. [passage omitted] Cheney arrived in Santiago early this morning. He was received by Defense Minister Patricio Rojas. Cheney is making an official visit to our country that will end on 23 February.

His activities began as soon as he arrived in Santiago. First he visited the Defense Ministry, accompanied by his host Patricio Rojas. In the Defense Ministry Cheney met with the commanders of the Armed Forces and Carabineros. The U.S. defense secretary then drove to La Moneda Palace to greet President Patricio Aylwin. U.S. Ambassador Curtis Kamman, Minister Rojas, and a 10-person entourage participated in the meeting.

Minister Rojas said the visit served to strengthen the two countries' links of cooperation. Cheney congratulated Aylwin for conducting the Chilean transition process.

This afternoon Cheney traveled to Punta Arenas, where he will remain on a private visit until the end of his official visit to Chile.

Russia Offers 'Guarantees' for Honecker

PY2202012292 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] The Russian Government has officially communicated to the Chilean ambassador that it will grant all necessary guarantees for Honecker's adequate medical treatment. This was reported by acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas. Vargas read a letter that Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov sent to Ambassador Clodomiro Almeyda.

[Begin recording] Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has given instructions to guarantee the medical treatment of Mr. Honecker, who is a guest of the Chilean ambassador, particularly during his trip from the embassy to the hospital, during his treatment in the hospital, and during his return to the Chilean Embassy. [end recording]

The instructions, the letter says, were given to all Russian security services. Vargas said that Honecker and his wife, Margot, were pleased to hear the news. Vargas added that no answer has been received on a safe conduct for the Honeckers to travel to Chile and that he did not believe the request will be granted.

It was unofficially reported at the Chilean Foreign Ministry that the former German Communist leader will be taken to a hospital in Moscow on 24 February.

Honecker Admitted to Hospital

PY2402113092 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Former GDR leader Erich Honecker was taken this morning to a Moscow hospital after spending two and one-half months in the Chilean Embassy in Moscow.

During a phone call from Moscow, spokesman Jorge Guzman reported that Honecker was admitted to the hospital after the Russian Government guaranteed that he will continue to be regarded as a guest at the Chilean Embassy.

Guzman said he did not know how long the 72-year-old former German leader will remain in the hospital.

A reliable source said Honecker was admitted to the Botkin hospital in downtown Moscow. [passage omitted]

'No Changes' in Policy

PY2402122692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss has asserted that no German authority has questioned the Chilean Government's honesty.

Krauss also rejected rumors about a disagreement with the German Government, stating those are only speculations by sensationalist sectors of the media.

The interior minister explained that a complicated situation has surfaced between the two governments but only regarding the diplomatic aspects of the case.

[Begin recording] [Krauss] Well, there have been no changes in the line of action adopted by the government since Mr. Honecker arrived at our embassy as a guest.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Krauss] Absolutely normal. Ambassador Carlos Huneeus has maintained fluid and permanent contact with the German Republic's authorities. Therefore, there is nothing abnormal, although we are, objectively speaking, facing a complex issue stemming from the need to adopt a humanitarian attitude [word indistinct] Honecker is enduring. [end recording]

Krauss added that all that was requested was Honecker's transfer to a hospital and that this authorization was granted by Russian authorities, but this authorization is exclusively for Russian territory. He added that there have been no formal or diplomatic requests, only that the German Government repeatedly has expressed its desire to bring Honecker before the court. [passage omitted]

Chancellor Kohl Cited

PY2402124492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1205 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Bonn, 24 Feb (EFE)—The German Government has "no reason" to doubt that Russia will keep its word to return former GDR leader Erich Honecker to Germany, according to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl today.

Kohl made this comment following Honecker's transfer today from the Chilean Embassy in Moscow, where he sought refuge last December, to a diplomatic hospital in Moscow. [passage omitted]

The Chilean Embassy in Bonn today also confirmed Honecker's transfer to Moscow hospital to be treated for the terminal cancer from which he suffers.

The embassy, through a press communique, states that "the Chilean Government will continue to seek a definite solution with the agreement of all parties involved."

The communique ends by recalling that "the problem was not started by Chile, but by authorities of the former

USSR, who in March 1991 took Honecker from Germany to Moscow as a guest of Mikhail Gorbachev, who was president at that time."

Body of Colonel Linked to Arms Shipment Found

PY2202015292 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Summary] The Forensic Institute today identified the body found in the Maipo River as that of Army Colonel Gerardo Huber Olivares. Huber disappeared on 29 January. He was being investigated in connection with the illegal arms shipment to Croatia last year. Judge Juanita Lathan said investigations will continue to determine whether Huber was killed, committed suicide, or suffered an accident.

Roundup of Economic Reports From 5 Jan-19 Feb

PY2102165692

[Editorial Report] Following are reports on economic activities in Chile from 5 January to 19 February. Source information is given in parentheses after each item.

The National Statistics Institute reported on 4 January that, compared to 1990, the Chilean industrial production increased by 5.9 percent in 1991. (Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Jan 92 p B14)

Representatives of the Mining and Metallurgy Agency of Japan, headed by its director Minister of State (Yutaka Hatano), met today with Chilean Mining Minister Juan Hamilton and announced their decision to transfer their office currently in Lima, Peru, to Santiago, Chile. The office in Chile will gather information from the six Latin American countries that border the Pacific, that is, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. The agency researches the mining exploitation field throughout the world and supplies the information to private investors. The Japanese agency uses sophisticated equipment, such as satellites. (Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Feb 92)

Colombia

President on Guerrilla's Cease-Fire Position

PA2102172792 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—President Cesar Gaviria has asserted the guerrilla's position is contradictory and ambiguous because it avoids the cease-fire topic. The president sent National Salvation Movement leaders Alvaro Gomez Hurtado and Juan Gabriel Uribe a letter stating talks were useful, noting the results they achieved in bringing an end to the armed conflict, which was what the Colombians demanded. The government insisted the cease-fire topic be given a priority treatment at the upcoming talks, in compliance with the agreements signed in Caracas on 6 June 1991.

Government Announces Caracas Peace Talks Postponed

PA2102185192 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1758 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Report by Guillermo Gonzalez]

[Text] We have last-minute news: The Venezuelan Government has just requested the postponement of the peace talks between the Colombian Government and the guerrillas.

The national government has just announced at Narino Palace that the resumption of the talks with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, scheduled to be held in Caracas on 24 February, has just been postponed. A communique issued a few minutes ago at Narino Palace points out that the government and guerrilla negotiating commissions report that the talks scheduled to resume in Caracas on 24 February have been postponed. The communique adds that the suspension of the talks does not contradict the government's willingness to resume the talks or its willingness to seek roads of peace for Colombians.

The talks scheduled to be held in Caracas on 24 February have only been postponed. The Narino Palace said it soon will report when they will be resumed. This will not happen before 2 March.

This has been a last-minute report.

New Date Studied

PA2202195092 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Pereira—President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo has stated his government is studying a new date to resume the peace talks with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB], which were postponed at the express request of Venezuelan authorities. Presidential Adviser for Peace Horacio Serpa said Venezuelan officials officially asked Colombia to postpone the talks until political adjustments are finalized in that country, which was recently shaken by a military coup attempt.

President Gaviria told Caracol reporters in Pereira that the Advisory Board for Peace Issues and CNGSB spokesmen studied the request to establish a new date. The peace talks could be held someplace other than Venezuela, government spokesmen acknowledged in Santa Fe de Bogota. This possibility is under review, following the incidents in the neighboring country where a paratroopers unit rebelled against the government of Carlos Andres Perez and tried to stage a coup, which was quickly crushed by the authorities. That situation prompted the Venezuelan Government to make a number of political adjustments, which are under way, and the request to Colombia to postpone the peace talks scheduled for 23 February. Serpa Uribe noted the Colombian Government sees no problem in choosing another site to hold the talks.

The Colombian Government will contact Venezuelan authorities in March to set a date to resume the talks with the rebels. Serpa Uribe said it will be established at that time if the right conditions exist to hold the talks in Caracas or somewhere else. He said other governments have offered to help Colombia find peace with the armed groups operating here.

Rebels Ambush Convoy, Kill 12 Soldiers, Civilian

PA2302133492 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] A civilian driver, 12 soldiers, and a guerrilla have died as a result of an ambush by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia against a 14th Army Brigade Rafael Reyes Battalion convoy. The convoy was protecting a truck transporting material for the Colombia oil pipeline being built in the northeastern region of Antioquia Department.

An official communique signed by General Marino Gutierrez Izasa, commander of the 14th Army Brigade headquartered in Puerto Berrio, states that the vile and treacherous attack by the subversive elements took place in El Costenal on the road to Remedios.

The official communique notes that following a dynamite explosion, the guerrillas fired cold-bloodedly on their victims, killing 11 soldiers, one NCO, and a civilian driver. One officer, eight more soldiers, and one peasant were seriously injured.

This radio station has identified eight of the dead soldiers. They are: Saul Aspanador Carreno, Timoleon Rueda Cala, Jaime Sierra Mandonado, Fermin Sandoval, Juvenal Aparicio, Eugenio Uribe Guerrero, Gonzalo Rodriguez Ardila, and Leon Lozano Quintero.

Oscar Barria Roda, a civilian driver from Puerto Berrio, also died as a result of the attack on two of the three trucks of the convoy.

The injured soldiers have been identified as Jose Joaquin Fierro Castro, Charlie Rueda Rudas, Enrique Avila, David Porra Acevedo, Ivan Sandoval Diaz, Reynaldo Quiroga Rodriguez, Juan Carlos Roa Hernandez, and Jose Vicente Cerquera Jairo.

Army Resumes Guerrilla Fighting Activities

PA2302161892 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Report by Jesus Garzon]

[Text] Army Commander General Manuel Alberto Murillo Gonzalez has announced that the Army resumed on 22 February its guerrilla fighting activities following the postponement of the Caracas peace talks. Murillo condemned Guerrilla Coordinating Board terrorist activities against the Middle Magdalena population in Santander Department. The high-ranking officer explained to journalists that the postponement of the Caracas talks has nothing to do with the authorities' work to preserve the country's public order.

[Begin Murillo recording] The country's armed corp and authorities' mission is not affected by the date of the Caracas talks—either when they are postponed or moved ahead—because our mission continues while violence exists because this is the duty of the military. [end recording]

Gen. Murillo Gonzalez disclosed that the military operations will continue until 3 March, when the guerrilla negotiators will be transferred to Caracas.

AD/M-19 Communique Supports Health Minister

PA2302162092 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] The 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19] has restated its support for Public Health Minister Camilo Gonzalez Pozo, who is presently the center of a controversy as a result of the government's decision to use glyphosate to eradicate poppy flowers.

In a communique issued by the AD/M-19, this political party stated that Minister Gonzalez is not only against the proliferation of opium and heroin in Colombia, but he is conducting his duties by ensuring that the use of chemical substances in Colombia does not result in the destruction of the ecosystem or in any health hazard.

According to the AD/M-19, the use of glyphosate will have poor results in controlling poppy growth. At the same time, it called upon all Colombians to form watch committees to ensure the proper use of the herbicide, as well as to discourage its use in restricted areas.

Peru

Government Decrees, Extends State of Emergency

PA2302000092 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2141 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Lima, 22 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Peruvian Government declared on 22 February a state of emergency in the two southern Andean Puno Departments, located on the Bolivian border, and extended the measure in four other provinces due to guerrilla activities.

Meanwhile, a military helicopter crashed in a strange incident the morning of 22 February in the conflict-ridden Ayacucho Department, 570 km south of Lima. A high-ranking officer in charge of the antisubversive struggle in Huancavelica region was injured.

President Alberto Fujimori approved a request from the Armed Forces Joint Command to extend the state of emergency in Melgar and Azangaro Provinces to facilitate the Armed Forces' counterinsurgency struggle in Puno, where the Shining Path group operates. The government also extended the state of emergency for 60

days in Huanuco Department, located in the central Andean region, and San Martin Department, located in the jungle region.

The Armed Forces also control Yurimaguas District, located in Loreto's Amazon region; La Concepcion Province; and two districts in Cusco's south Andean zone.

Due to the increasing activities by the Shining Path and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) guerrilla groups, the government declared a state of emergency in half of the national territory, including Lima.

Furthermore, Colonel Adolfo Colmenares Zapata, chief of the political-military command in Huancavelica, was injured early on 22 February following an explosion on the military helicopter he arrived on for talks with other military commanders to coordinate the antisubversive struggle.

The aircraft was assigned to the 3d Air Group in Ayacucho, an area under Shining Path control. Military sources said the incident, in which three other military officers were also injured, occurred due to a mechanical failure in the helicopter's motor.

The four injured military officers, whose condition is unknown, were brought to Lima this afternoon and admitted at the Armed Forces hospital.

Political violence during the last 11 years has resulted in the death of more than 23 persons, including civilians, rebels, and military. [as received]

Economy Minister on Drug Agreement With U.S.

PA2302001092 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Interview with Economy and Finance Minister Carlos Bolona Behr by Fernando Rospigliosi during the "Saturday Focus" program hosted by Denis Vargas Marin; in Lima on 22 February—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Rospigliosi] Minister, we know the United States has played an important role in Peru's return to the international financial system. We know the United States considers the drug issue essential.

In recent weeks, several incidents have jeopardized the continuation of the drug agreement between Peru and the United States. On the one hand, Hernando De Soto tendered his resignation as presidential adviser for drugs, dealing a blow to Peru's position given the fact that De Soto's international contacts had played an important role in this regard. On the other hand, Peru's drug interdiction policy and human rights violations have been seriously questioned. The U.S. Congress views these issues with great concern.

All of these problems are creating a tense situation between the United States and Peru with regard to drugs. These problems may endanger the plan devised last year to reincorporate Peru in the international financial market. What are the issues as you see them regarding this issue?

[Bolona] We can divide this question into two parts. One refers to the intervention of Dr. Hernando De Soto and the other deals with the advancement of this policy or the drug agreement, as well as the problems that may result.

Regarding the first point, my trips to Quito and our work there, namely the visit by Michel Camdessus, have regrettably prevented me from contacting Dr. De Soto. I am glad to see that Mr. Gonzalez del Rio [not further identified] continues to collaborate.

I believe De Soto will continue his work, in one way or another, because of his contacts. I think this is important, given his knowledge and expertise on the U.S. plans. I would hope he would collaborate in this regard, because in the end Peru is at stake in this situation.

With respect to the implementation of the drug agreement, as it is related to the Support Group, I have supervised its operation, particularly the economic side of it. I see there is a delay in the implementation of the economic area. For example, the United States, as leader of the Support Group and a key player in Peru's return to the international economic scene, has disbursed $20 million.

[Rospigliosi] Of a total of what?

[Bolona] The United States had pledged to deliver more than $400 million to form the Support Group. Subsequently, the United States is late in delivering money, if compared to Japan, which already has disbursed 80 percent or more of its assistance.

The U.S. deficit and fiscal situation may be creating problems with its disbursement. However, the United States could definitely be making disbursements at a more dynamic and efficient pace. It is true that part of the U.S. contribution, as this is not a loan but a donation, could be linked with human rights and advancements in the drug interdiction program. Regarding the latter, which can be [words indistinct] military, there is no argument on the progress made and the amount committed.

Some criticism can be made against the drug interdiction plan, which I think cannot be separated from economic development. This plan, which included the delivery of U.S radars, is progressing efficiently. The drug interdiction plan became ineffective when the United States failed to supply drug interdiction equipment. The deficiencies have not been caused by Peru, but by the lack of the aforementioned equipment.

[Rospigliosi] A few weeks ago, Ambassador Quainton said everything was normal here and the United States was disbursing the money from the drug agreement on a timely basis. Recently, a U.S. official said in reality the disbursements had stopped. Now you are confirming the disbursements have stopped. My question is, what will happen at the San Antonio Summit in Texas? What will

happen if the United States insists Peru is not complying with the drug agreement and continues to violate human rights? What if the United States says Peru is failing to enforce the drug interdiction plan? What will happen with the plan to return Peru to the international financial community?

[Bolona] We must differentiate between the military and the economic areas. In the economic area, I think the United States is complying with Peru, but it is being affected by the U.S. fiscal problems. We should keep this in mind. Secondly, regarding the interdiction issue, we need to distinguish the different elements of interdiction. This is not my area of expertise. We would have to ask the interior or defense ministers. I think that in those interdiction areas where we could have been efficient, we have been effective. The lack of logistical support from the other party has prevented us from being more efficient, because the interdiction plan that had been devised was the less effective one, so to speak.

This includes air interdiction, which was feasible given these interception mechanisms, instead of other provisions that would be more detrimental for the forces that would have had to intervene. Consequently, we must be careful about this and we will have to determine where we have been efficient, and where it would be appropriate to aim our efforts to meet our goals.

[Rospigliosi] Was the implementation of alternatives ruled out?

[Bolona] I do not think it can be ruled out. I think it is one of the most important structural reforms and it will allow us to overcome the country's status as the leading coca leaf exporter and to adopt another export system to settle the situation. If we do not do it we will simply be unable to solve our critical structural problem. We cannot neglect it. This must be done through joint internal and external efforts. We must not think only external efforts will allow us to overcome the situation. That is the large-scale structural reform we must implement throughout the coca jungle area. [passage omitted]

Subversive Group Leaders 'Could Be Extradited'

PA2202201192 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Lima, 21 Feb (EFE)—On 21 February, President Alberto Fujimori stated that the leaders of the two Peruvian subversive groups could be extradited to the United States because of their alleged link to drug-trafficking activities.

During a visit to the coca growing regions of the northeastern Andean valley of the Huallaga River, President Fujimori also announced that the reward offered for the heads of the leaders of the Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) had been doubled.

President Fujimori stated that Abimael Guzman, founder and leader of the Maoist Shining Path group is worth, either "dead or alive" $500,000. On the other hand, Victor Polay, commander of the communist "MRTA," is worth $250,000.

In addition, President Fujimori pointed out that the government will guarantee the safety of the persons and their families providing reliable information leading to the arrest of the two guerrilla leaders. In addition to the reward, transportation will be provided out of Peru.

The rewards are being offered by a civil organization known as "Force of the Law," promoted by the Interior Ministry and comprised of businessmen and entrepreneurs.

During a speech made in the town of Sauce, Department of San Martin, Fujimori stated that if the United States requested the extradition of Guzman and Polay, the Peruvian Government would agree because they are drug traffickers. The town of Sauce was under the control of the "MRTA" guerrillas until two months ago.

The Peruvian Government is accusing the two armed groups of gaining profits from economic revenues resulting from drug-trafficking activities. In addition, police sources believe that Shining Path takes in somewhere between $20 and $50 million each year, primarily from quotas it receives from drug traffickers operating in the areas under its control.

The whereabouts of Guzman, 58, also known as "President Gonzalo" by his followers, has been unknown since 1979, a year before Shining Path took up arms against the Peruvian Government.

The closest the authorities have ever been to Guzman was in 1990 when the police raided a house in Lima where it is believed he had been living.

In 1991, the police seized a video which ended up being the first graphic document of his existence since his police photograph was taken in 1979.

On the other hand, Polay, 40, was captured in a hotel room in the Andean city of Huancayo in February 1989. He was able to escape from the Lima maximum security prison in July 1990 with 47 other guerrillas through a tunnel dug from outside the prison.

Shining Path 'Has Declared War' on Dutch Workers

LD2102121492 Hilversum Radio Netherlands in English 1130 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] The Peruvian guerrilla movement Shining Path has declared war on Dutch aid workers in the country. In a rebel newspaper, Shining Path accuses Dutch development workers and their organizations of selling out the poor in Peru. In the past such accusations have usually preceded attacks by the Maoist guerrilla fighters.

Four major and some minor Dutch organisations active in Peru are targeted in the threats by the Shining Path

movement. One has 20 Dutch nationals working in Peru. The Foreign Ministry in The Hague said it was investigating. A ministry spokeswoman said no physical threats had yet been made.

Uruguay

Lacalle Advocates International Environment Treaty

PY2102142492 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Report by Jorge Dibuna from Canela, Brazil]

[Excerpts] Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle has said that the UN Conference on Environment and Development [Rio-92], which will be held in Rio de Janeiro in June, will call for international laws against actions that damage the environment. He said that these acts must be punished.

Lacalle met with Brazilian President Fernando Collor to discuss bilateral issues, including the acid rain produced by the Candiota Dam and how this rain is affecting the northwestern part of Uruguay. He said much progress has been achieved.

Let us listen to President Lacalle's comments after signing the Letter of Canela and other documents on the environment:

[Begin recording] Uruguay's position on the issue is very succinct and concrete but, nonetheless, very important. We already defined this position at the Cartagena and Guadalajara Conferences. The Uruguayan Government believes that the Rio-92 conference must commit all nations to draft an international treaty on environment-harming acts. The treaty must establish punishments for countries, people, companies, or corporations that harm the environment. [passage omitted]

The Uruguayan position is included in the Letter of Canela and I believe that this is the only way to make the Rio-92 conference yield concrete results. If not, declarations of good intentions will abound but the sea, the atmosphere, the forests, and the rivers will continue to be destroyed.

Another position we have defended and which represents the current administration's philosophy is that, although many criticize the work of the government and insist that most of this work must be transferred to the private sector, there is one issue that must remain in the hands of the government: The defense of the environment. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ministry Denies Protest to Brazil on Acid Rain

PY2202132992 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] It has been officially denied that the Uruguayan president has formally lodged a protest with the Brazilian Government over the situation of the Candiota thermal power plant. In response to international news agency reports, an Uruguayan Foreign Ministry spokesperson has asserted that Brazilian President Collor and Uruguayan President Lacalle have not held any bilateral negotiations on this issue within the framework of the recent meetings held in Canela, Brazil.

The spokesperson added that over the past few months Uruguayan and Brazilian officials have worked intensively to achieve an agreement to protect the environment along the border area.

An international news agency report datelined in Montevideo states, however, that during the Southern Cone summit, Uruguayan President Lacalle lodged a formal protest with Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello. Lacalle complained about the ecological disaster that the Candiota thermal power plant is causing in northern Uruguay.

The report adds that Uruguayan Foreign Ministry sources have reported that the protest was raised in very firm terms during a private meeting held by the two presidents within the framework of the Canela ecological summit.

The report also states that on several occasions Uruguay unsuccessfully lodged protests with Brazil in view of the pollution caused by the Candiota power plant, which is located on the Uruguayan-Brazilian border.

The sources added that the situation has deteriorated and that in view of this formal protest, Brazil will be compelled to adopt specific measures. The news agency report adds that the first measure Lacalle requested Collor to adopt is to suspend plans to quintuplicate the capacity of the power plant in 13 years.

The news agency report states that over the past few weeks, the Uruguayan Government has received alarming reports from officials of eight Uruguayan departments located on the Uruguayan-Brazilian border, all of which have been severely affected by acid rain.

Communist Party Central Committee Leaders Resign

PY2102195692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2343 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Montevideo, 20 Feb (EFE)—Communist Party of Uruguay (PCU) sources reported today that 18 leaders of the party's reform-seeking faction resigned from the Central Committee on 19 February on the grounds that "the process of renewal has failed."

The leaders in question submitted their resignation to PCU Secretary General Jaime Perez on 19 February. Perez, who is one of the reformers, had announced his intention to resign two weeks ago.

The sources noted that Perez accepted the leaders' irrevocable resignation, although he pointed out that their decision "will upset the power balance within the Central Committee."

Last year the reformers, who believe that the PCU must be ideologically modernized to bring it in line with the new international status quo, made their viewpoint prevail in the party through their proposal for a Movement for Democratic Socialism.

The "orthodox" or "historic" faction, which wants to preserve the Marxist-Leninist ideology, managed to "control" the situation and obtained enough signatures to call a special congress this May.

During this congress the Communists will elect a new secretary general in view of Perez' withdrawal, but they will not debate ideological issues, which have been postponed until 1993.

Meanwhile, the "orthodox" faction managed to control PCU grass-roots and departmental organizations, and they have majority in the 70-member Central Committee.

After the withdrawal of the 18 reformers, only four members of their faction remain in the Central Committee. These four reformers have announced that they will stay "to fight the last battle" during the coming congress.

The leaders who resigned wrote a joint letter stating that "our convictions compel us to make this painful decision when the political struggle has forsaken principles and has become a mere jockeying for power."

The PCU is the largest group within the left-wing coalition Broad Front, which is made up of 17 political organizations. The Broad Front is currently the third-largest political force in Uruguay, winning 20 percent of the votes in the 1989 general elections.

Government Suspends VAT on Farm Products

PY2102170492 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] A few moments ago the government released a decree suspending value added tax [VAT] on farm products for 180 days. Agricultural producers, political groups, and the people in general have been waiting for this measure which will help farmers through their difficult economic situation.

Venezuela

Perez Not To Attend San Antonio Drug Summit

PA2202133392 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Armando Duran has announced that President Carlos Andres Perez will not attend the antidrug summit to be held in San Antonio, Texas, beginning 25 February.

[Begin Duran recording] Although the situation in the country is completely normal, as you all know very well, we have decided—the president made the decision—it is better not to attend the summit. President Perez will send a letter to President Bush explaining why he cannot be attend the summit. Because there are urgent problems in the country requiring his attention, he will not be able to participate in the summit. [end recording]

Perez Speaks on 4 Feb Coup Attempt, Corruption

PA2402014292 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1526 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez on the occasion of former President Romulo Betancourt's birthday in Zamora District, Guatire—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The democratic process in Latin America has yet to be definitely consolidated. That is what we must think about now, when we celebrate the birthday of one of the Venezuelans who contributed to form this government, which has been in existence for 34 years. We must also think about the abominable surprise we received in the early morning hours of 4 February. The men of that time, Romulo Betancourt, Jovito Villalba, Raul Leoni, and many others....[pauses] we cannot possibly mention them all or remember their names, so I mention three of the most important protagonists of Venezuelan democracy. The three names I mentioned represent the leaders who began the process that ended with the stabilization of Venezuelan democracy in 1958. That democracy had become a beacon shining on the Latin American continent; it was mentioned everywhere; and it was presented as the most accurate expression of the political transformation process in Latin America—yet someone tried to eclipse it on 4 February.

That is what I want to reflect on in this historical town of Guatire. That day, when the past loomed before us, should be considered, above all, by those of us who have assumed leadership roles in the different areas of our nation. It also serves as an opportunity to look within ourselves, observe the nation's reality, and sincerely see where we erred, what we failed to do, and what has failed—so that a group of adventurers would betray their pledge to remain loyal to the Constitution, try to taint the National Armed Forces' dignity, betray the Constitution in the dark of the night, and try to return us to a past that cost Venezuela so many lives throughout the decades, caused so much sorrow and desolation in the country, and obstructed Venezuela's progress.

We cannot think that a mad fever of ambition was all it took to unleash the 4 February events. As head of state, I think it is my responsibility to reflect on this and say that the political parties must now set aside their internal problems and give a satisfactory answer to the Venezuelan people, to all Venezuelans, not only to their party activists. We must realize that this is necessary and essential for our progress, that it is an obligation greater than mere party interests. We must bear in mind that we must always protect ourselves and keep the floor of our democracy free of cracks or crevices, because we have certainly failed to protect it. The parties' constant

internal rifts and selfish attitudes led them to forget temporarily their responsibilities and duties toward all groups in our society.

It does not matter which party one supports. The important thing is that the people of all the regions in Venezuela should feel the political parties' participation in the discussion of important national problems and their solution. That is what the parties must now reflect upon, when we have been surprised by the lowly treason that was attempted—not against the political parties, but against all the Venezuelan people. Political parties must also consider that they have been leaders of the formidable social transformation which has occurred in Venezuela. Venezuela is now a country that has joined all the activities and efforts exercised in the modern world. The political parties have led Venezuelan toward that modern destiny. Within that struggle, the parties have failed to rise to the level of the society they created. Such responsibility makes it necessary to implement a series of legal and behaviorial reforms so the parties may become part of the new society that was created due to their indefatigable efforts to transform Venezuela. [applause]

We admit that the judicial branch has become the subject of reports, criticism, and mistrust by the public. Things went so far as to try to include all those who work in the judicial branch. That is a grave injustice, harmful to the democratic process of our country. There is no doubt that we must produce, as soon as possible, legal and administrative reforms to move the judicial branch away from this situation that has led to a number of Venezuelans to take a stand that I criticize because it tends to confuse rather than to solve the problem. They requested that the magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice resign. I think, however, that the leaders of all the democratic parties should seriously ponder the situation of the judicial branch, a situation that led to the serious request I just mentioned, so that measures can be taken immediately so the judicial branch can recover its due authority.

Curiously, if we refer to what we might describe as the power or importance of the state powers, it is seen that the judicial branch is the least powerful. Nevertheless, it is the judicial branch that defines democracy, because it is the branch that defines the state of law, without which there cannot be democracy. Without a state of law, neither the executive nor the legislative branches, and, consequently, democracy, can function properly. It is essential for us to face the situation squarely. [applause] This analysis of the situation of the judicial branch, the unfair and exaggerated criticisms leveled at it, but also the fair reasons for such criticisms, does not at all entail criticism of democracy and justification of confrontation, ignorance, or doubt in democracy.

That is not the way to conduct discussions in a free country. All of us here, those who are listening to me over the radio, and those who will read the speech tomorrow will agree with me that we Venezuelans understand that democracy is not a perfect system. It is what most closely fits the fundamental feelings of man, who wants dignity and freedom. The proposal that defects in a democratic system lead to the right to violate the Constitution and the traitorous coups d'etat do not impress us. It would be dramatically terrible for the country if Venezuelans, because they disagree with a certain situation or the government, could reach the conclusion that a coup is the proper way to solve problems. It is impossible to think of greater corruption or a greater crime than to overthrow a constitutional system and create a de facto government. Nothing escapes, nothing protects us from, and nothing will help us clear the vices and defects in our democracy. [applause]

Once when I was talking to a military leader in a Latin American country—a military leader who misruled the great Republic of Argentina for so long and who was later killed by a guerrilla movement—and I asked that general: you who were a dictator in Argentina, tell me what are a military regime's benefits, merits, or qualities? The general replied: I will answer with an observation. If authoritarian regimes were a solution, then Latin America would be the most prosperous and happy continent in the world, because Latin America has nearly always been ruled by dictatorial regimes. [applause]

I reflect on such matters especially for the young, who did not live under the dictatorship, who do not know what it was like not to be able to speak, not to be able to travel freely in Venezuela, to be denied access to freedoms, who never knew what it was like to be tortured, locked up in some jail, or to be exiled—to those who never knew what all those mothers suffered, what all those Venezuelan families suffered, who never knew when their homes might be overrun, or when one of their relatives might end up in jail and be tortured or killed. This is what Venezuelan youth must reflect upon. If something happens we must stand together as a single person.

In a democracy, if a government is not liked then in a predetermined amount of time it changes. If a president is not liked in a democracy, then in a set amount of time that president leaves and the people choose someone to replace him. If the people do not like a style of government, after a certain predetermined time a new government follows that can inaugurate a new style or policy.

These are the simple things we must think of to realize the terrible danger, the tragic danger, the tragedy we were about to experience during those early morning hours when the past became present.

We must reflect on the need to make rectifications where changes are needed and the useless talks that often take place within our local and regional legislative branches. The parliament is certainly democracy's supreme political forum. We cannot expect or demand that parliamentarians only approve laws; they must also tackle with

dignity the ideological debate and the confrontation that are part of the very essence of the democratic system.

We need a more dynamic Congress with a higher awareness of the situation facing Venezuela, because the great changes the country is facing demands that certain measures leading to changes in all aspects of Venezuelan legislation be made on time to incorporate them into the administrative policies being implemented.

Political parties must also reflect on that to ensure, with the necessary amount of parliamentary debate, that a solid alliance is established around a set of issues above the parties; that is in keeping with national interest and is everyone's responsibility.

There is a pact in place that was solemnly signed at the Elliptical Room of the Federal Palace by all political parties and the president of the republic committing themselves to carry out a number of reforms within a timetable to change certain aspects of Venezuela's institutional life. We failed to do so and we must comply as soon as possible.

I have left my comments on the executive branch for last. The government must also examine its own behavior and determine whether it has really met the country's needs in every possible way.

At times political criticism and debate focuses on the so-called economic package. There is no such economic package. There actually is a reversion of an artificial process that controlled the Venezuelan economy. Subsidies and protectionism ruled the activity of producers and consumer in this country. That process led us to the tremendous crisis I assumed on taking office of a nation that had only $300 million in operational reserves, an immense debt that had not been refinanced, and facing the collapse of all public services, which cannot be upgraded overnight. That was the situation in Venezuela when we started these indispensable changes and great turnaround to establish a solid base for the Venezuelan economic process. [passage omitted]

Now let me address the problem of corruption. We must no longer look upon it with disdain. Undoubtedly, there are problems of corruption in our country, as in every country. But the problem is not whether there is corruption or not. The problem is if we are effectively fighting corruption in the country.

This government can contribute some ideas and accomplishments showing we have confronted corruption to some degree. Corruption is basically based on the discretion of the governments to adopt the decisions they deem convenient. Such discretion masks an arbitrary power, which allows all forms of corruption. We have gradually dismantled corruption with the law on bids, which takes away the right from officials to grant contracts to whomever they want. Contracts now must be submitted to a transparent process so the lowest bidder gets the contract.

We have eliminated the preferential dollar system, which generated rampant corruption in the country during the last two administrations. We have eliminated the import license system, which created corruption and allowed many people to illegally increase their wealth. We have eliminated the export bonus system. We have cleaned the country from what was commonly known as the requirement to obtain permits for every transaction, such as taxes citizens had to pay for state services.

But that does not mean that the vices of corruption inside the executive branch have been corrected. We must strive to make the process genuine and clear. There are still many vices that must be confronted and corrected not only in the government, my dear friends. Government corruption would not exist if it did not have the support of civilian society and the private sector. We also have to investigate those sectors to eliminate the corruption processes, which costs us so much.

In some cases, Venezuelans who want and believe in democracy take advantage of corruption to launch honest and sincere campaigns. In other cases, corruption is used to justify what cannot be justified and develop other forms of corruption, which is insidious. I am referring to the corruption of democracy, which says democracy is not useful so a government of force and violence must arise to correct the problems of the country. Such corruption is based on the struggle against corruption. But we democrats must not allow that to happen. We who are responsible for leading the country to democracy must confront it. [applause]

We are experiencing a crisis that is the result of the great and positive transformation and modernization of Venezuelan society, although it may seem paradoxical. Now we must take advantage of the infamous rebellion staged on 4 February to face the challenge with courage. Fortunately, we can say we carried out our duties with honor. The president of the republic earnestly fulfilled his constitutional and personal duties. [applause] Mine was the first voice that resounded in the national panorama and the ears of all Venezuelans, when on television I openly confronted the infamous treason. [applause]

At that time, the political parties joined with me to confront that act of treason. We could say that on the morning of 4 February, the active unity of all Venezuelans shined brightly. We put our differences and conflicts behind us and decided to tell Venezuela and all Venezuelans that, regardless of conflicts, ideological differences, problems, difficulties, and corruption, Venezuela has a historical responsibility with itself to maintain and strengthen the democratic system. [applause]

La Casona, the presidential residence, was attacked not only with rifles and other heavy weaponry during the early morning uprising against two important targets; it was also attacked with mortars, which are not used to seize or storm a fortress or a residence. Instead, they

were used to kill the people inside the residence. Miraflores Palace, the official residence and site of the president's office, was attacked with tanks in an effort to destroy Venezuela's democracy. We must not forget those events, but we must not remember just to demand vengeance or mistreat those who dared perpetrate such treason, because our democratic system not only faces the challenge of proving its efficiency, it also faces the challenge of preserving freedom and defending human rights. Although they betrayed their pledge, they are Venezuelan citizens who deserve the respect of the law and the authorities. They must pay according to the law for the crime they perpetrated against their homeland! [applause, shouts]

The Venezuelan people are sometimes short on memory, but abundant in generosity. Once we recover from the impact of a problem, we talk about forgiving, forgetting, and then reconciliation. Let us not feel hate; let us not deny anyone the right to a pardon; but let us punish whoever violates any of the laws of the republic—above all whoever violates the Constitution! [applause]

Caracas is plagued with pamphlets and rumors nowadays. That means the military group—an extremely small group—which betrayed the Armed Forces were not the only ones involved in the coup attempt. There are others, lurking in the dark, availing themselves of their democratic rights, trying to sow uncertainty in the nation and artificially prolonging a crisis, an emergency that was immediately solved in the early morning hours of 4 February.

This represents another warning. Every society has permanently maladjusted people and uncontrolled ambitions; those pamphlets are the work of minority groups—cowards who do not dare show their faces in open criticism and who try to sow uncertainty among the people. I say here, in calm and serious words, that the government's serious, firm, and honest conduct will not be weakened. We will maintain a flexible attitude toward the demands from the different groups in the country—but we will certainly not accept lowly and clandestine actions when everyone has freedom. We will not put up with cowardly plans to disrupt the nation's actions when a political confrontation can be carried out in broad daylight. We recall what the man we honor here today said in a similar situation: I will not resign and no one will make me resign! That historical phrase is still valid in Venezuela today! [applause, shouts]

The government will not take advantage of these circumstances to gain the edge against anyone. It will not make the mistake of saying that people whose positions differ from those maintained by the government and the parties are coup plotters or antidemocratic people. The government will not avail itself of any situation to corner any group in our nation, but the government will strictly and firmly enforce the law and use its authority against those who try to maintain a state of uncertainty against Venezuela's democracy! [applause]

That is what we will do and that is what I come to offer on this historic day for Caracas, when we celebrate the birthday of one of the men who gave us the democratic system others want to seize. He was the target of many threats and coups, as we have been, but circumstances are different. Venezuela in Romulo Betancourt's time was a Venezuela where the era of the caudillos, military communiques, and military dictatorships still prevailed in the people's minds and lives. This is no longer Romulo Betancourt's time, thanks to the efforts exerted by men like him and all those I mentioned symbolically when I named three men. They made it possible to close that chapter of our nation's life.

I have repeated many times that the early morning hours of 4 February represent the time when the past returned. Our duty is to sink and bury forever that past! I am talking to all the parties, all the people, all those who wish to live with dignity, all those who know there will never be a justification to betray the oath and loyalty we all owe the Constitution of the republic. This is our obligation, and we must all share it. That is why I have summoned the representatives of the most important political parties to Miraflores Palace, so we may reach an agreement on a series of measures and actions that we must carry out to prove the government and political parties are, and will continue to be, the essential factors of our democratic life.

I also summon other groups that have yet to directly assume their responsibilities in guiding the republic and the state's activities. They have responsibilities that are equally important. Thus, I issue an appeal to the businessmen, labor union members, intellectuals, and scientists, because we all represent Venezuela and we all have the responsibility to strengthen the country and bury forever uprisings like the one we had on 4 February—which will be the last one we will ever have! [applause]

Today, on Romulo Betancourt's day, in his home town, and as a homage to his memory and his achievements, we ratify our solemn oath: Democracy in Venezuela will never succumb as long as it is in our hands! Thank you. [applause, shouts]

Military Court Orders Arrests

PA2202035992 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] The Permanent Second District First Instance Military Court in Caracas has issued 41 arrest warrants against other professional Army officers implicated in the 4 February military rebellion.

The measure was authorized by Colonel Ramon Enrique Moreno Natera, the judge in charge of the case, who left the investigation open to continue the military trial.

The decision, which was read to media representatives by Lieutenant Alexis Jose Balza, secretary of the court, mentioned as initiators or coup leaders Captain Ronald Jose Blanco La Cruz, Capt. Guillermo Gustavo Blanco

Acosta, Capt. Edgar Antonio Graterol Sanchez, Capt. Pedro Jose Jimenez Yusti, and Capt. Wilmer Omar Barrientos Fernandez, as well as six lieutenants, four sublieutenants, three first class technical sergeants, and one second class technical sergeant.

[Begin Balza recording] As supporters—according to Article 476, Clause One, with sanctions under Article 479, in accordance with clause two of Article 477 of the Military Justice Code—the following military professionals: Major Fernando Viloria Gomez, Capt. Jose Homero Albarran Barrios, Lt. Jose Angel Caratayut Pedra, Lt. Rodolfo Clemente Marcos Torres, Lt. Jose Oscar Carrizales Flores, Lt. Manuel Gregorio Bernal Martinez, Lt. Ruben Alfredo Avila Avila, Lt. Eldan Rafael Dominguez Fordi, Sublieutenant Luis Rafael Bermudez, Sublieutenant Osvaldo Aquino Lamont, Sublieutenant Dario Enrique Baute Delgado, Sublieutenant Oscar Rafael Cabello Lozano, Sublieutenant Luis Roberto Arriaza, Sublieutenant Carlos Alfredo Tovar Alfaro, Sublieutenant Miguel Eliezer Martinez Morales, First Class Technical Sergeant Bernardino Segundo Montilla Aloyo, Second Class Technical Sergeant Barreto Flores, Second Class Technical Sergeant Argenis Danilo, Second Class Technical Sergeant Wilfredo Ramon Aguilera Orellano, Second Class Technical Sergeant Aureliano Jose Carrasquel Rondon, Second Class Technical Sergeant Jose Alberto Garcia Estrada, Third Class Technical Sergeant Lenin Dario Berrios, and Third Class Technical Sergeant Pedro Martin Milan Machado. The Military Court continues with the investigations. [end recording]

New Attack Denied

PA2302015092 Paris AFP in Spanish 0024 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Caracas, 22 Feb (AFP)—The Venezuelan Government denied on 22 February rumors of an attack against President Carlos Andres Perez in Guatire, 50 km east of Caracas.

An official communique said "rumors on 22 February of an attack against the president are absolutely false and slanderous."

Rumors abounded in Venezuela, particularly in Caracas, suggesting new military plots were afoot. These were denied by President Perez and the government.

Perez thwarted a 4 February military coup.

The president attended a ceremony commemorating the 84th birth anniversary of the late President Romulo Betancourt (1959-1964). Betancourt, the father of Venezuelan democracy, founded the current ruling social democratic Democratic Action (AD) party.

Perez was Betancourt's secretary and interior minister. Betancourt subdued the guerrillas in Venezuela in the sixties.

The Venezuelan Government again urged the media not to heed "ill-intended rumors which only cause confusion and anguish among the inhabitants."

Coup Leaders Want To Explain

PA2202142092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2022 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Caracas, 21 Feb (EFE)—On 21 February, the leaders of the attempted coup d'etat of 4 February stated that the serious corruption in Venezuela and the border negotiations between Venezuela and Colombia motivated the attempted military coup d'etat.

Deputy Orlando Fernandez, a member of the Movement for Socialism (MAS) opposition party, reported he met with Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez and the other leaders at the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DIM) on 21 February. They assured him they never intended to kill Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

Fernandez added that Chavez and his followers are "very interested in talking to the National Congress" to explain the reasons that lead to the attempted coup d'etat in Venezuela, which has had a democracy for 34 years—the oldest in Latin America. He added the five lieutenant colonels that lead the attempted coup d'etat asked "to be heard by the country and requested to appear before the National Congress to explain their motives."

Fernandez explained to the detained military officers that "according to regulations, that was not possible. If a decision is made to begin an investigation into the matter during a parliamentary debate, however, they could appear before the commission the Congress designated for that purpose."

Fernandez said that each one of the five lieutenant colonels that headed the attempted coup d'etat expressed their opinion about the event in a "very coherent" manner. He noted that the prisoners "feel morally strong."

Fernandez added that the leaders of the attempted coup d'etat stated they had sacrificed their families and military careers "for the good of the country and for the cause."

As military authorities are not permitting the media to interview the prisoners, the rebels gave Fernandez a message to give to Venezuelan journalists. Fernandez stated that the message written by the military rebels is "strictly in the spirit of Simon Bolivar and full of hope." He did not give any other details about the content of the message.

The military officers said that among the main reasons that motivated them to rebel, were the statements made by President Perez surrounding negotiations with Colombia on delimitation of marine and submarine waters in the Gulf of Venezuela.

Perez stated in January that Colombia has rights over the Gulf of Venezuela, and even indicated that 20 percent of the area in conflict belongs to that neighboring country.

Retired Armed Forces officers have pointed out that Venezuelan soldiers are taught from the moment they enter the military ranks that they should defend national sovereignty with their lives. He added that this could have influenced those responsible for the coup attempt.

Possible Executions, Torture

PA2202204192 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1723 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Caracas, 22 Feb (EFE)—On 22 February, Caracas newspapers reported that two Carabobo University students could have been "illegally executed" after they were arrested by troops loyal to the government on 4 February.

DIARIO DE CARACAS published testimonies indicating two victims, Columbo Rivas and Enrique Ruiz, "were alive when they were arrested during the attempted coup, but the next day, their bodies appeared at the morgue with a shot in the head."

The newspaper indicated that these facts had not been reported because the victims' relatives and witnesses were afraid they would be stopped under the ruling that suspends constitutional guarantees, which is still in effect.

According to the published reports, Rivas "was taken from a bus filled with civilians and soldiers," who had been arrested "by State Police and National Guard troops," and Ruiz "was arrested when he participated in the burning of a police vehicle with the soldiers who were revolting."

The EL GLOBO newspaper published the statements of grassroot leader Humberto Ledezma, who denounced the tortures and manipulation of information by the DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services] police.

Ledezma, Ramon Yaguaramay, and Hector Valderramo were arrested and publicly charged with being a "remnant" of the "Tupamaros," a group that assaults financial institutions and has many former guerrillas as members.

Ledezma, who was released by a Caracas court due to lack of evidence, charged that DISIP personnel "brutally tortured Yaguaramay and fractured his skull."

"We were asked if we were soldiers and they insisted that we declare that we owned the weapons confiscated on 4 February," Ledezma reported. He added that on 5 February, "Yaguaramay was sent to the torture chamber and DISIP personnel, who are experts in torturing without leaving signs, used a cable to apply electrical currents to his body."

Ledezma asserted "they also placed him in a bag and slowly removed the air and then threw water on him so that the electrical current would be stronger."

The newspaper noted that the arrival of a prosecutor from the Attorney General's Office stopped Ledezma and Valderama from being sent to the torture chamber too.

Senator Resigns, Claiming No Solution to Crisis

PA2202133492 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] On 21 February, Senator Jose Marsicobetre of the Independent Popular Democratic Force Party resigned as second vice president of the Senate. He stated political leaders and the legislative branch have not provided answers to the current crisis in the country.

Marsicobetre decided to leave his post vacant and no longer attend sessions, expressing his discontent as a politician and a Venezuelan. He added he will not accept any nomination in the future or occupy his position as senator. He clarified that his decision is not related to the nomination of David Morales Bello for president of the parliament by the Democratic Action Party [AD]. On the contrary, he said, he supports his nomination.

[Begin Marsicobetre recording] I said from the beginning I supported Senator Morales Bello's candidacy, who efficiently occupied that position in the past. There are factors that other political parties have mentioned in rejecting his nomination, but we have not discussed the matter further. [end recording]

Senator Enrique Tejera Paris also supported David Morales Bello's candidacy for president of the Senate, praising his previous work.

[Begin Tejera recording] The AD, as its president Humberto Celli confirmed on 21 February, is sticking with its candidate for president of the Senate, and sees no reason to change that position. [end recording]